

# **SOME QUALITATIVE RESULTS FOR THE QUADRATIC FUNCTION APPROXIMATION**

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## **Abstract**

By means of a detailed investigation of some particular examples, this paper attempts to assess some qualitative properties of the quadratic function approximation. Particular attention is paid to the size of the region over which this is a good approximation, and to comparisons of the accuracy of the approximation with the more traditional Padé and Taylor approximations.

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qualitative properties of approximation.

## 1. Introduction

In the previous report [2] the existence of local quadratic approximations to any analytic function  $f(x)$  was established. The questions which we now attempt to answer, mainly by means of illustrative examples, are these:

- (i) Can the approximation  $y(x)$ , unique in some neighbourhood of the origin, be extended to approximate  $f(x)$  over some larger region?
- (ii) Does this method of approximation give significantly better results than more traditional methods (eg. Padé and Taylor approximations) and if so, for what types of functions?

## 2. Discussion

In what follows it will be assumed that  $\sum_{i=0}^2 a_i(x)y(x)^i = 0$  and that

- (i) the  $a_i(x)$  do not have a common factor
- (ii)  $\sum a_i(x)y(x)^i$  cannot be factorised.  
i.e.  $\nexists$  polynomials  $p(x), q(x), r(x), s(x)$ , such that

$$\sum a_i(x)y(x)^i \equiv (p(x)y(x) + q(x))(r(x)y(x) + s(x)) .$$

It will be shown in later work that this is not a serious restriction.

It then follows (Hille [3] Theorem 12.2.1) that  $y(x)$  (as defined in [2]) is analytic everywhere except possibly at the points  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $a_2(x) = 0$  (poles) and the points  $x \in \mathbb{C}$  such that  $D(x) = 0$  (branch points). It is clear that  $y(x)$  is single valued and analytic in any simply connected neighbourhood of the origin not including any of the above points. It will be assumed that  $f(x)$ , the function being approximated is single-valued, or at least, that we wish to approximate only one of its Riemann sheets. It is then clearly necessary to restrict the region of approximation,  $R$ , so that  $y(x)$  is single valued on  $R$ . This consideration, with some additional information about  $f(x)$  (for instance, the knowledge that  $f(x)$  is analytic on some region, or the approximate location of any singularities) turns out to give enough information to accurately approximate some functions over a wide area.

### 3. Examples

#### 3.1 Example 1

##### 3.1.1 The (2,2,2) approximation to $\log(1+x)$

Consider the (2, 2, 2) quadratic approximation to the principal branch of  $f(x) = \log(1+x)$  (with a cut taken along  $\{x \in \mathbf{R} : x \in (-\infty, -1]\}$ ). Note that:

- (i)  $(x^2 - 6x - 6)f(x)^2 - (9x^2 + 18x)f(x) + 24x^2 = O(x^8)$  so that (using results from [2]) the approximation is

$$y(x) = \frac{9x^2 + 18x - x\sqrt{-15x^2 + 900x + 900}}{2(x^2 - 6x - 6)}$$

$$\text{with } y(x) = f(x) + O(x^7).$$

- (ii)  $D(x) = -15x^4 + 900x^3 + 900x^2$  so the roots of  $D(x)$  are

$$x = 0 \text{ (twice)}$$

$$x = -0.9839$$

$$x = 60.9839.$$

The roots of  $a_2(x)$  are  $x = -0.8730, x = 6.8730$ . Consideration of the proof of Theorem 1 in [2] shows that each of these roots corresponds to a pole on only one of the sheets

$$y(x) = \frac{-a_1(x) - x\sqrt{-15x^2 + 900x + 900}}{2a_2(x)}$$

$$y_1(x) = \frac{-a_1(x) + x\sqrt{-15x^2 + 900x + 900}}{2a_2(x)}$$

and a removable singularity on the other. A simple calculation or consideration of the later graphs shows that  $y(x)$  has no poles and to ensure that  $y(x)$  is single valued we simply need to define its domain  $R$  as  $\mathbf{C} \setminus \{x \in \mathbf{R} : x \in (-\infty, 0.9839) \text{ or } x \in (60.9839, \infty)\}$ . Graphs of  $y(z)$  and the error function  $e(z) = y(z) - \log(1+z)$  are now presented. These graphs are over the region  $\{x + iy \in \mathbf{C} : |x| \leq 2, |y| \leq 2\}$  with mesh spacing of 0.1 using PC-Matlab. The point  $-2 - 2i$  corresponds to the lower left corner. It should be noted that some calculation error, particularly near  $z = -1$  is inevitable but given that PC-Matlab uses double precision and that it is understood that we are working with an open mesh, this effect is minimal.

Fig.1 and Fig.2 are the real and imaginary parts respectively of the approximation. To the naked eye these surfaces are virtually indistinguishable from those of  $\log(1+z)$  (although  $\lim_{t \rightarrow -1} \log(1+t) = \infty \neq y(-1)$ ).

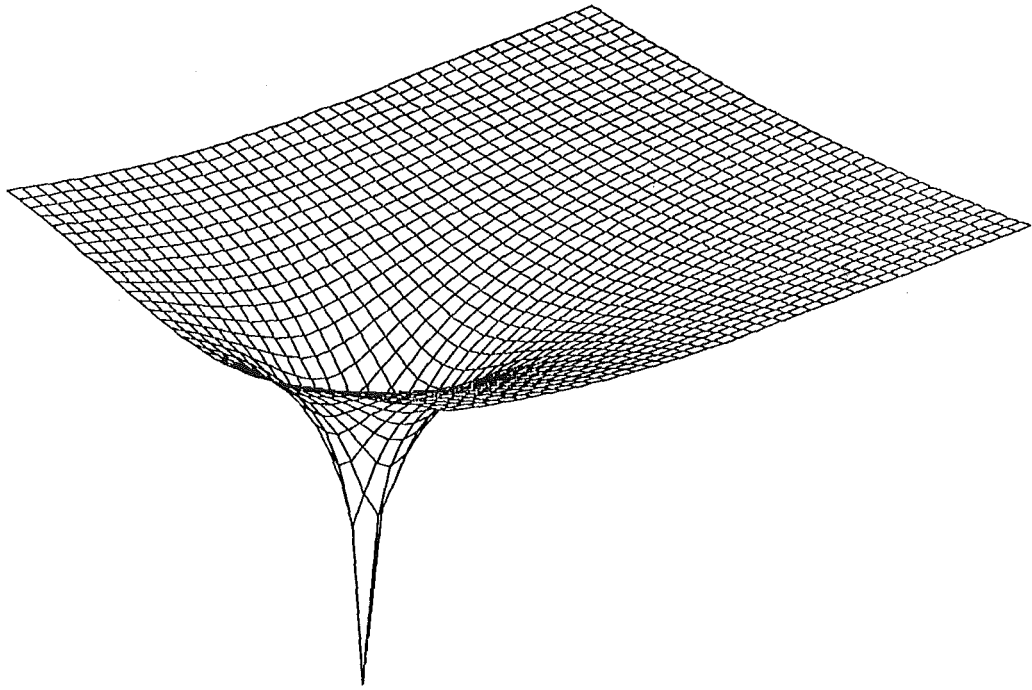


Figure 1  $\text{Real}(y(z))$ .

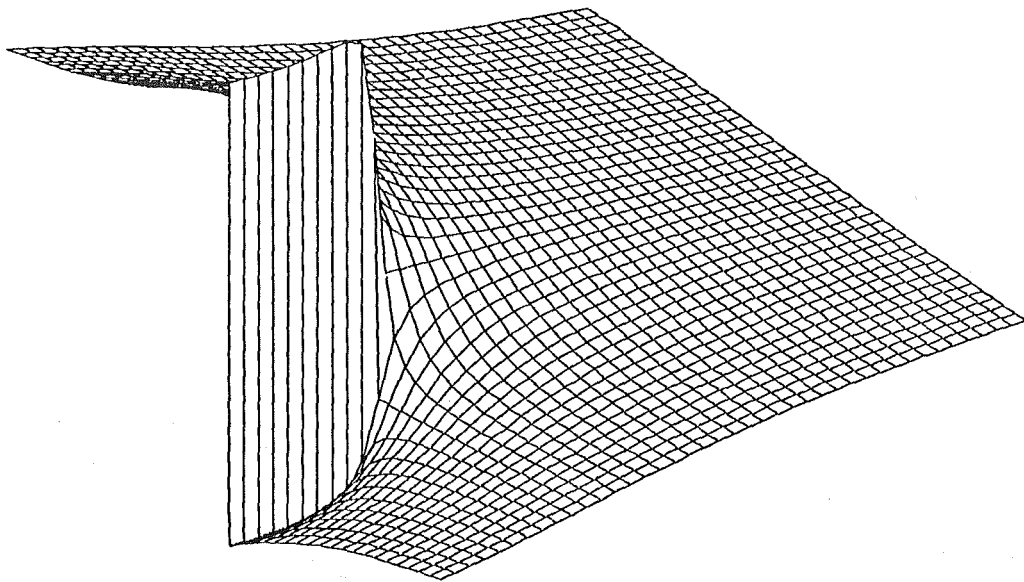


Figure 2  $\text{Imag}(y(z))$ .

Graphs of the real and imaginary parts of the error function (clearly not exact at  $z = -1$ ) follow. These are shown truncated at successively smaller values so as to illustrate the error behaviour throughout this region.

Fig	Real/Imag	Truncation interval
3	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm\infty$
4	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm\infty$
5	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-1}$
6	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-1}$
7	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-2}$
8	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-2}$
9	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-3}$
10	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-3}$
11	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-4}$
12	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-4}$
13	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-5}$
14	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-5}$

Fig.15 and Fig.16 are contour maps of the real and imaginary parts of  $e(z)$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3}, \pm 10^{-4}, \pm 10^{-5}, \pm 10^{-6}, \pm 10^{-7}, \pm 10^{-8}\}$ .

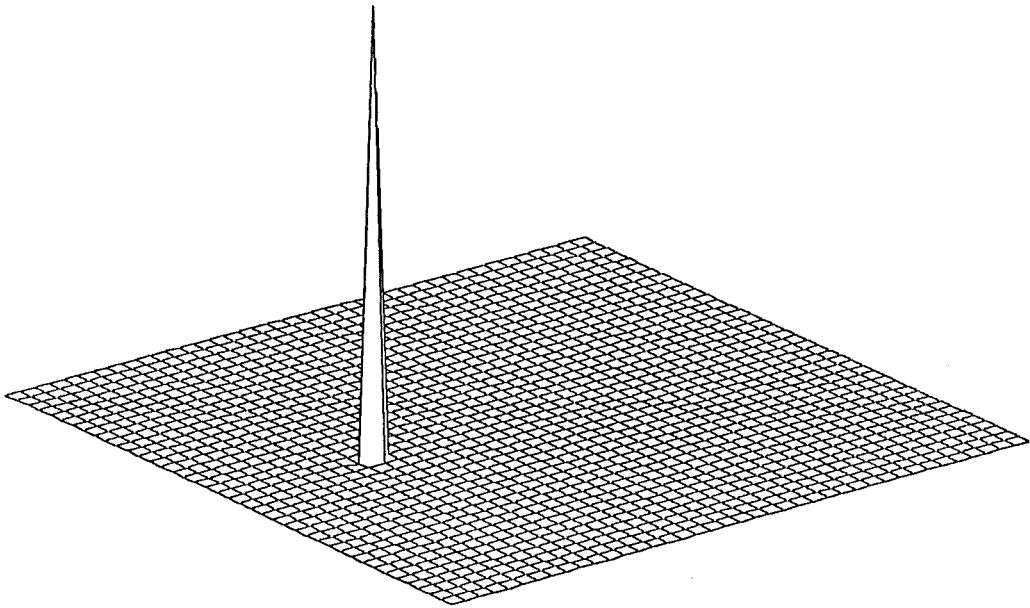


Figure 3  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$

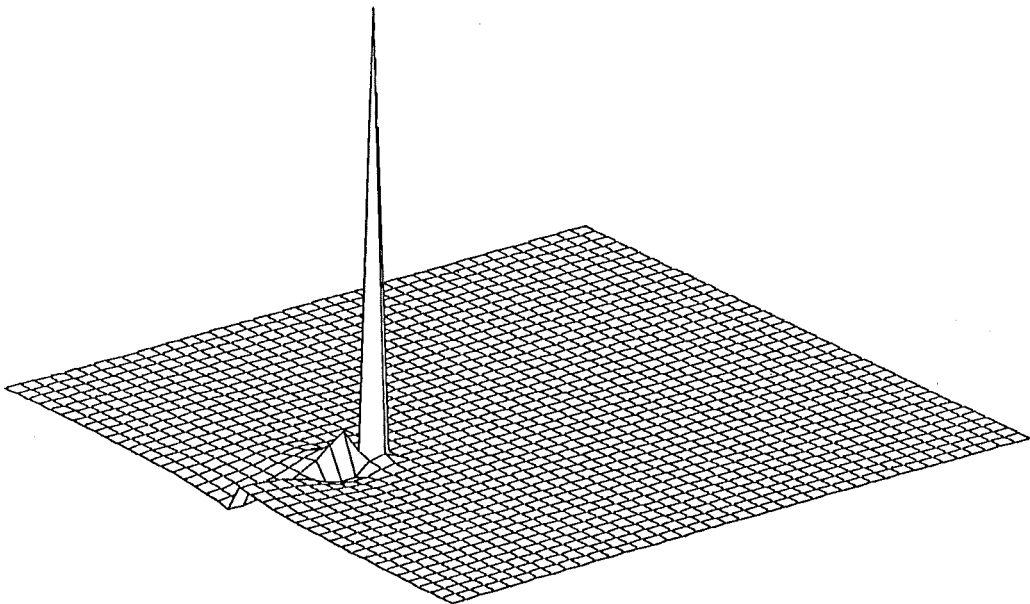


Figure 4  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$

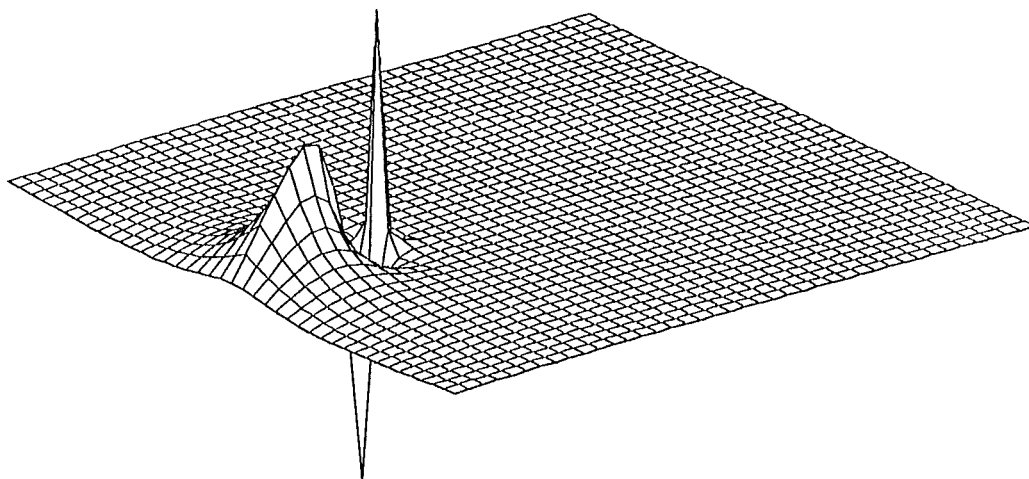


Figure 5  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

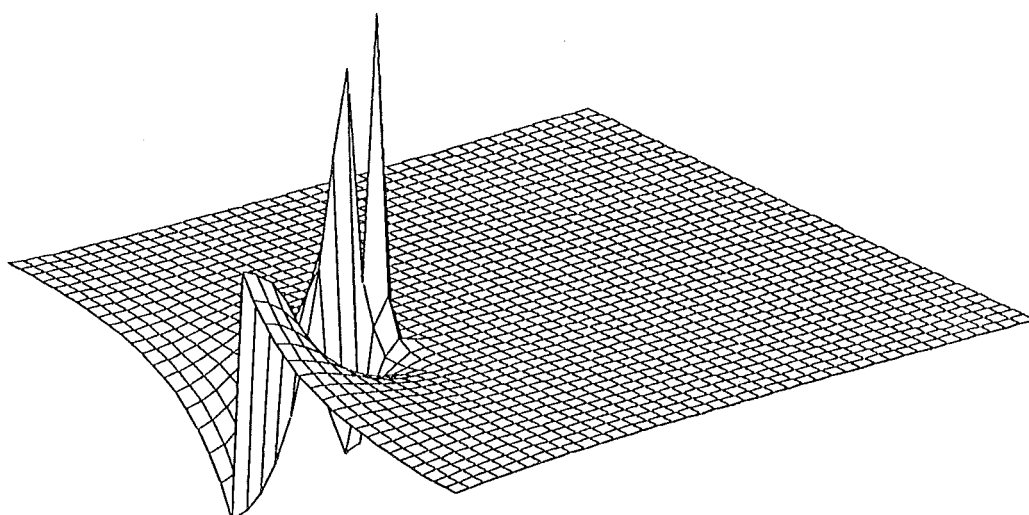


Figure 6  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

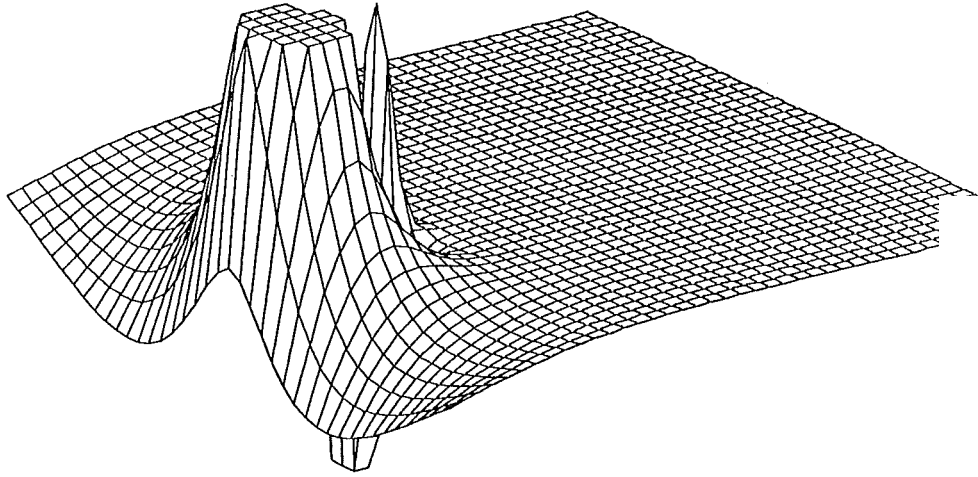


Figure 7  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-2}$

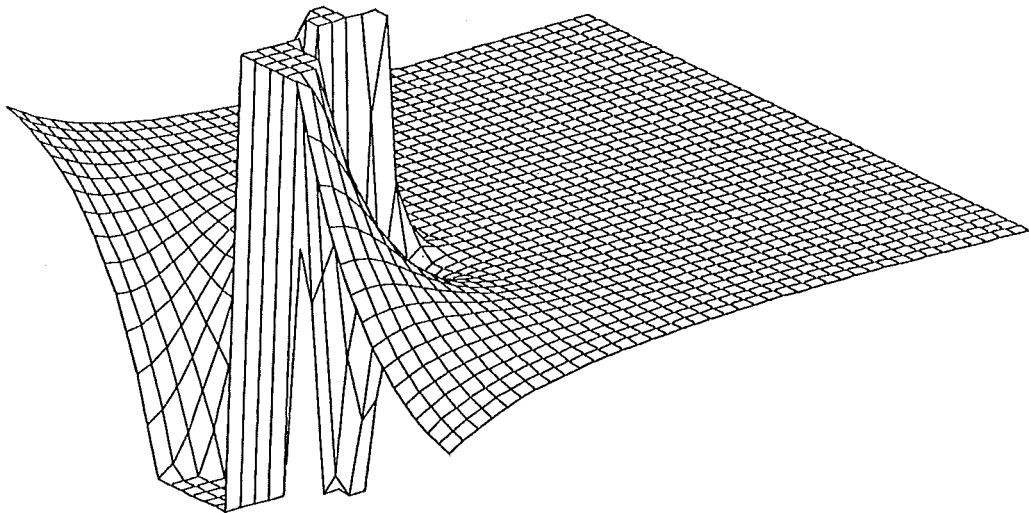


Figure 8  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-2}$



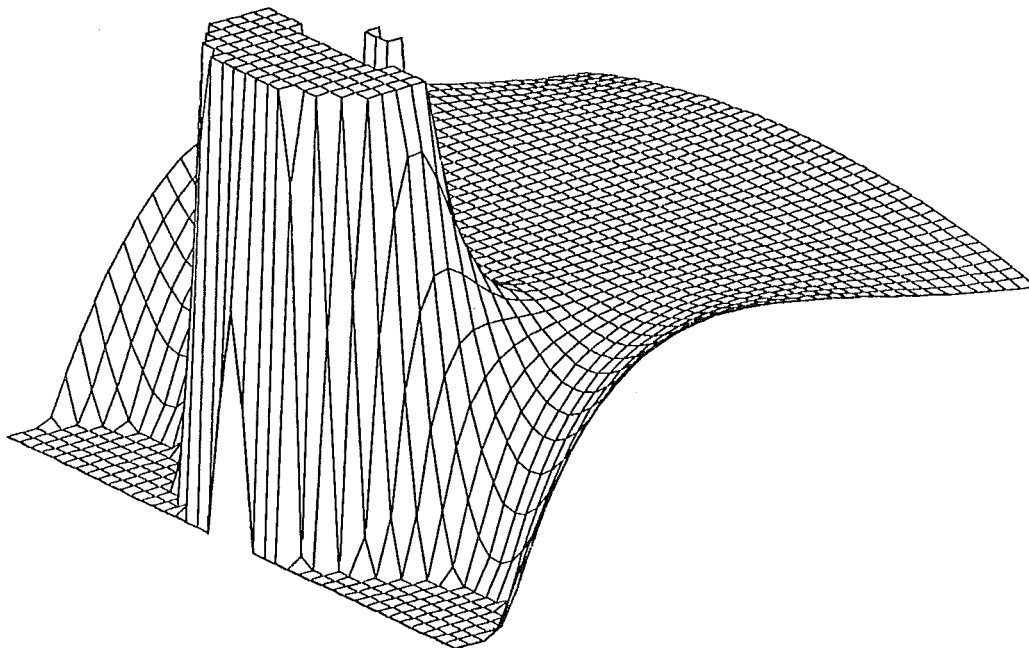


Figure 9  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

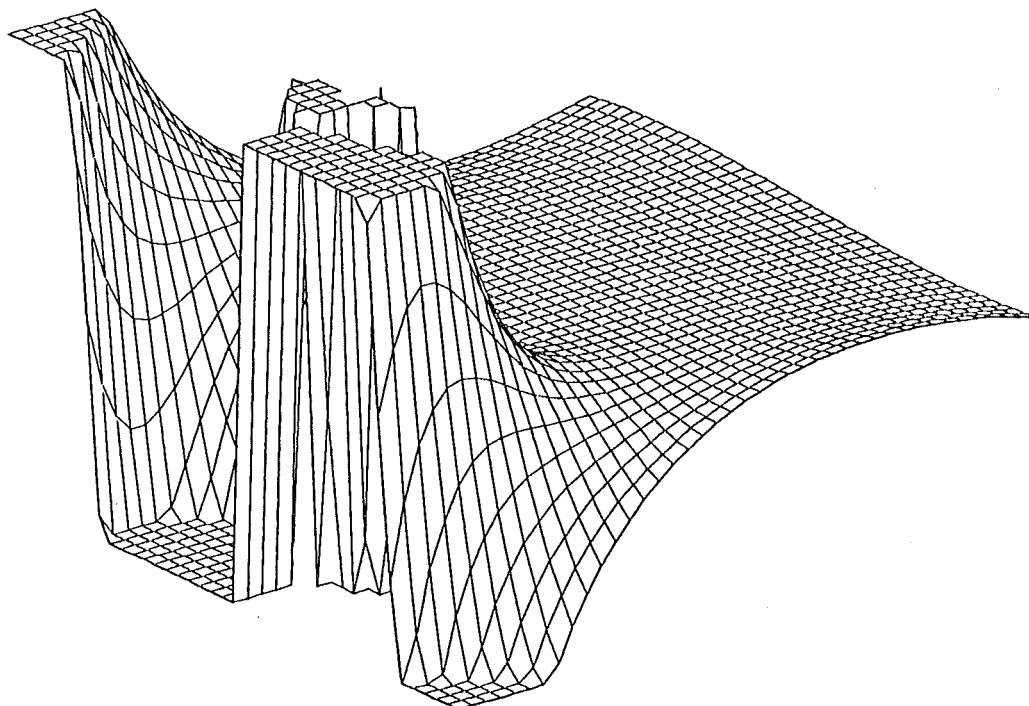


Figure 10  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

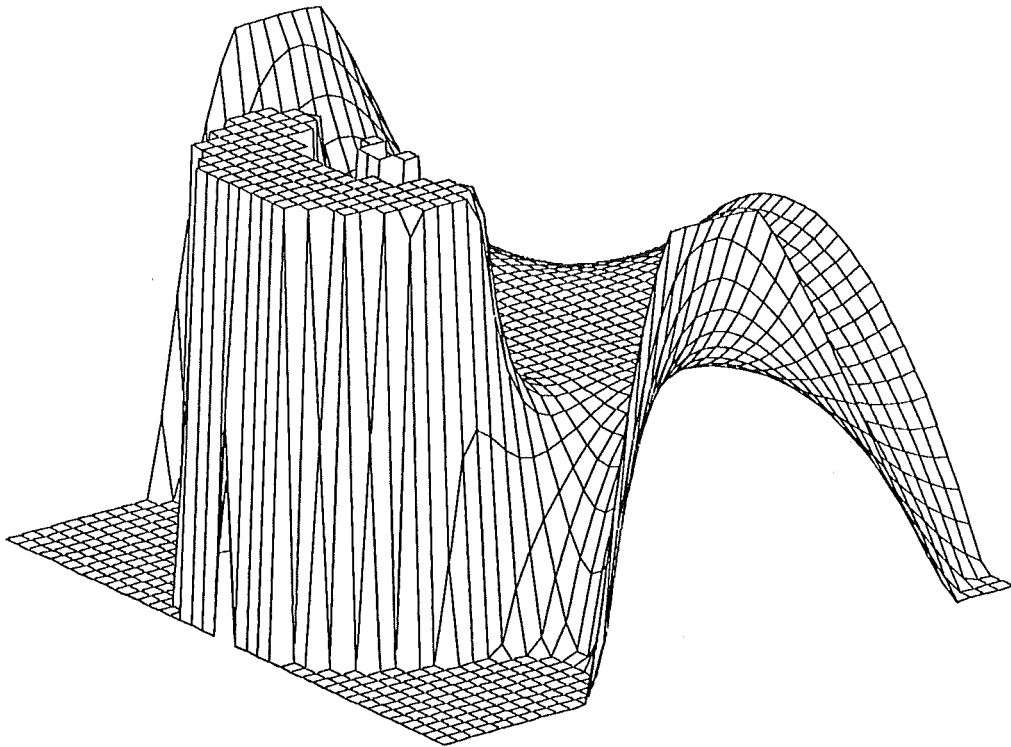


Figure 11  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-4}$

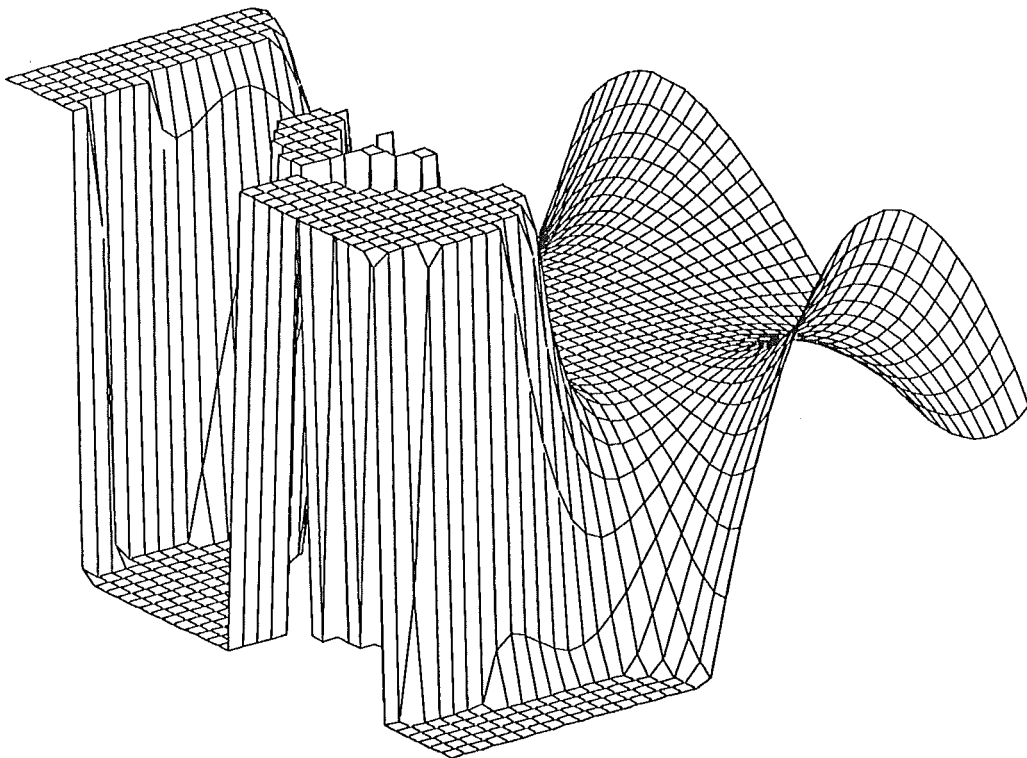


Figure 12  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-4}$

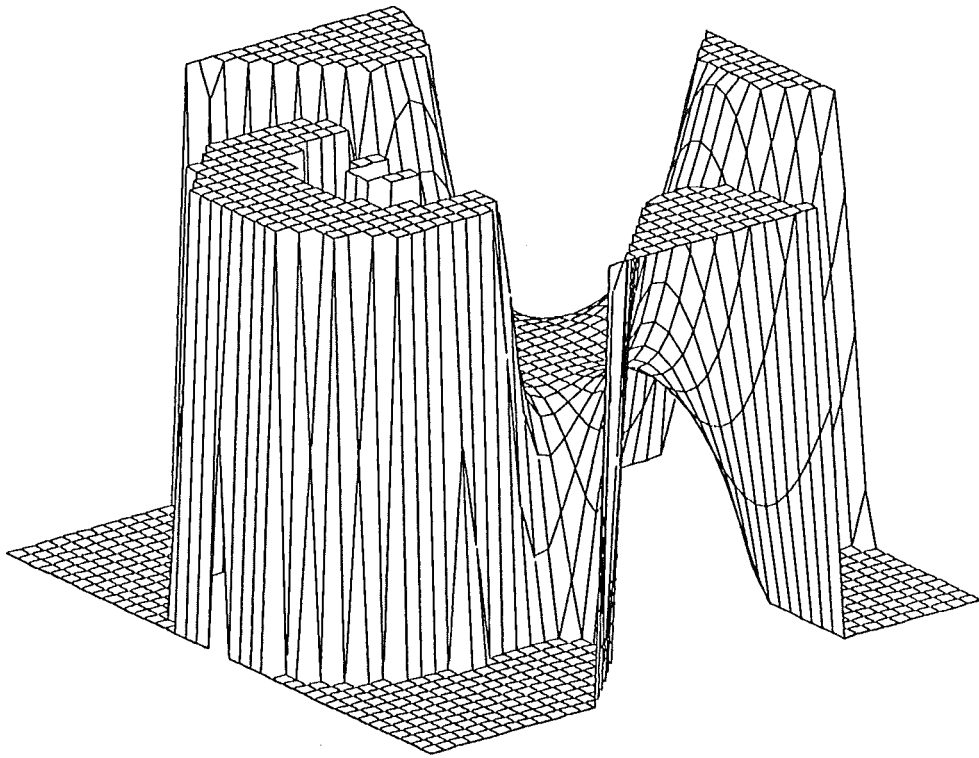


Figure 13  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-5}$

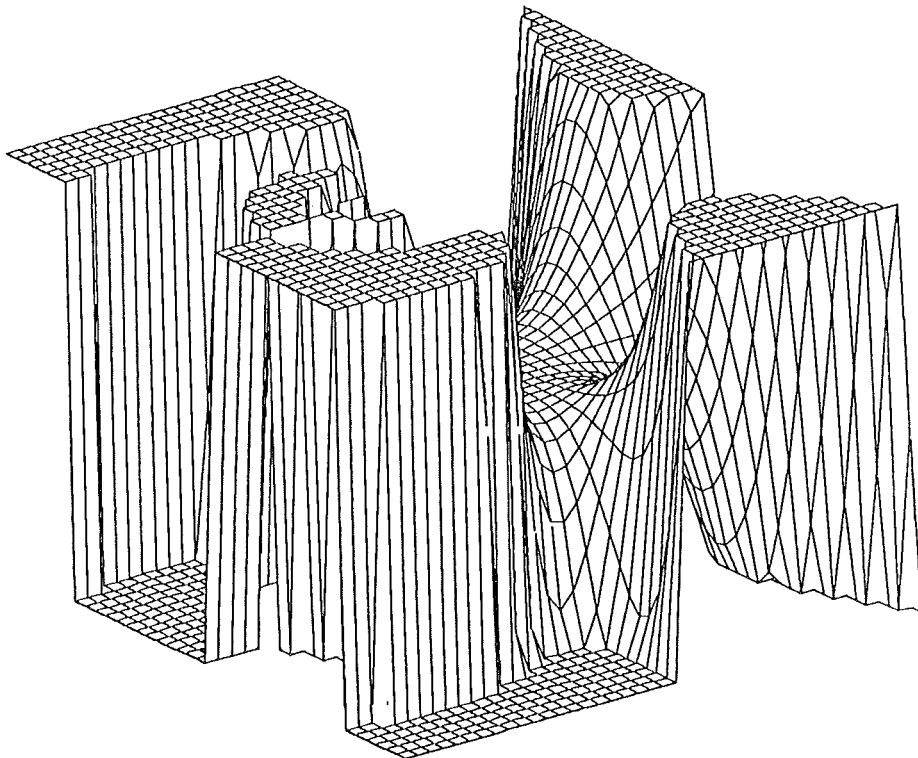


Figure 14  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-5}$

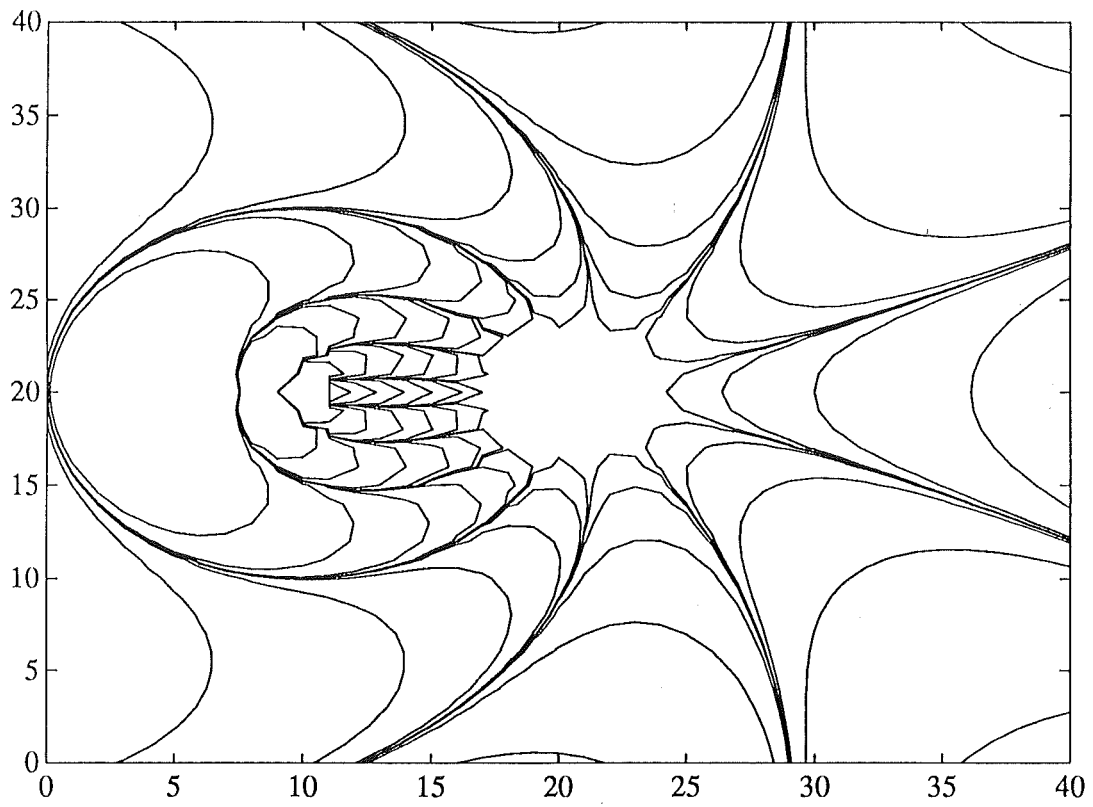


Figure 15 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

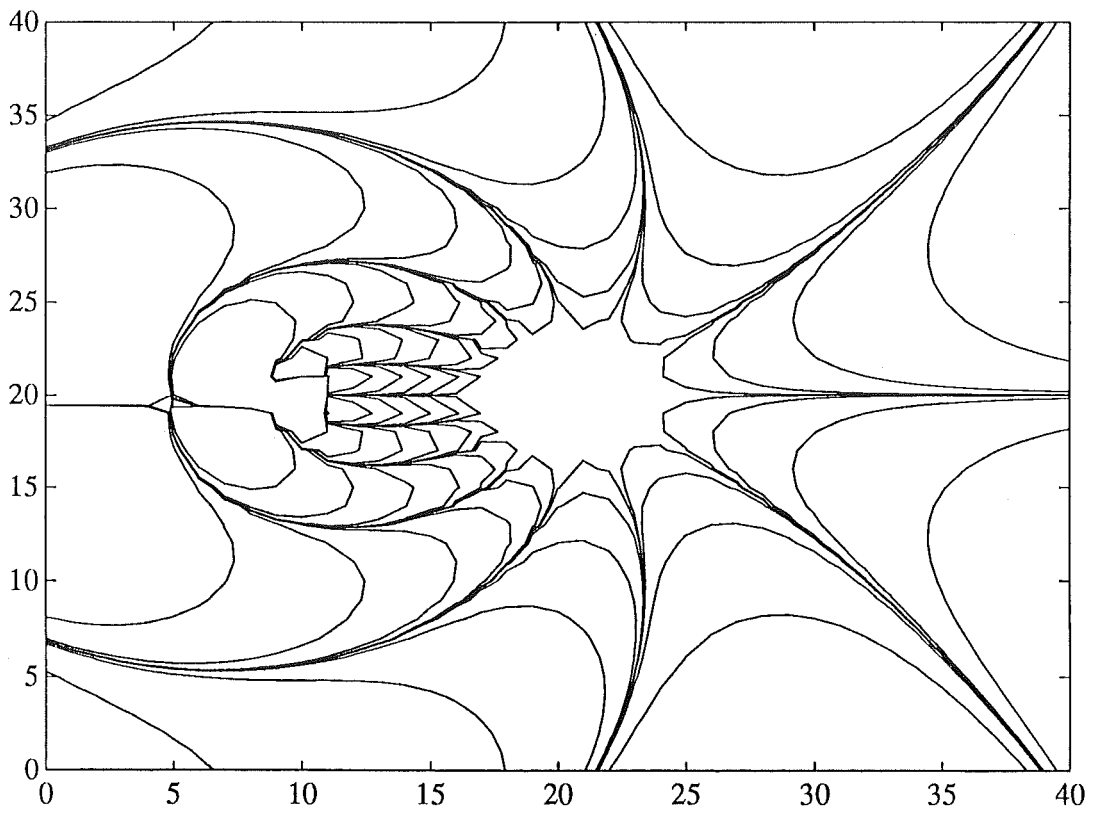


Figure 16 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

### Comparison to a Padé approximation and to a Taylor polynomial.

In order to gauge whether the quadratic approximation is worthwhile it is useful to compare its performance with those of the Padé and Taylor approximations which match  $f(x)$  to the same order. Here we choose  $p(x)$ , the (3,3) Padé approximation and  $t(x)$ , the Taylor polynomial of degree 6.

Note that

$$\begin{aligned}y(x) &= f(x) + O(x^7) \\p(x) &= f(x) + O(x^7) \\t(x) &= f(x) + O(x^7) .\end{aligned}$$

#### 3.1.2 The (3,3) Padé approximation to $\log(1+x)$ .

The (3,3) Padé approximation to  $\log(1+x)$  is given by

$$p(x) = \frac{11x^3 - 60x^2 - 60x}{3x^3 + 36x^2 + 90x + 60}$$

$p(x)$  has poles at  $x = -8.87, -2.00, -1.13$ .

Graphs of the real and imaginary parts of  $p(z)$  follow. Because of the obvious difficulties,  $p(-2)$  has been set to zero.

Fig.17 and Fig.18 are the real and imaginary parts respectively of  $p(z)$ .

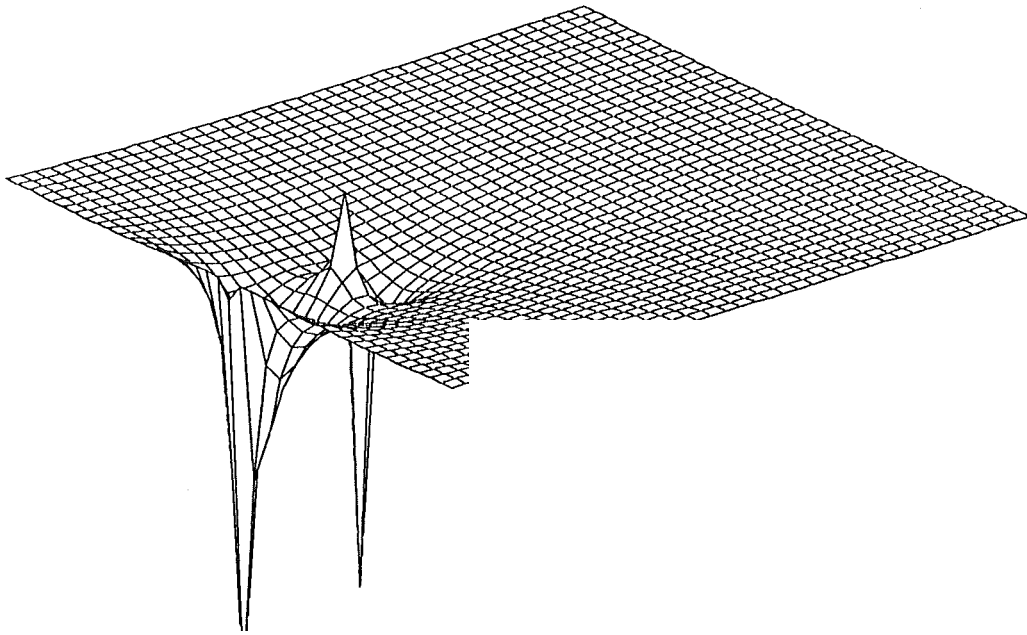


Figure 17  $\text{Real}(p(z))$ .

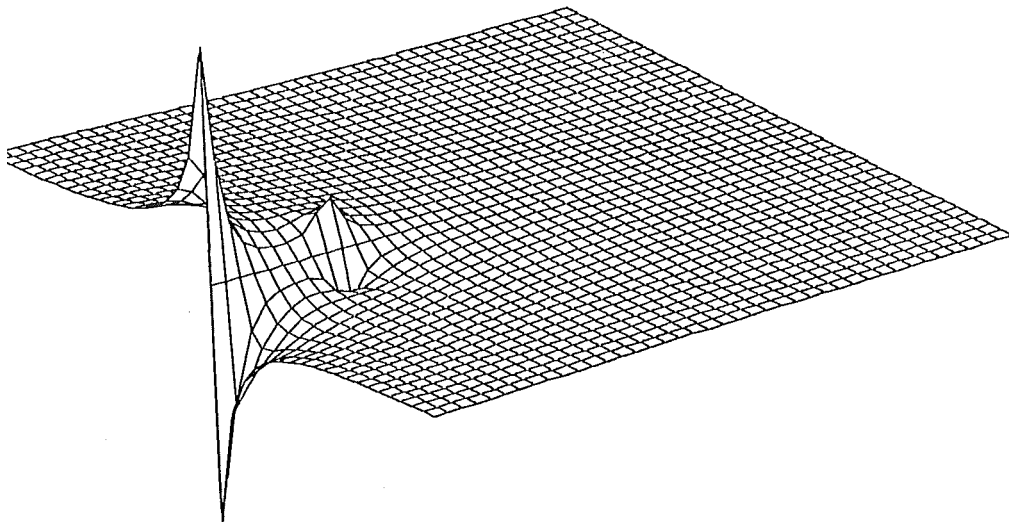


Figure 18  $\text{Imag}(p(z))$ .

Graphs of the real and imaginary parts of the error function  $e(z) = p(z) - \log(1+z)$  follow.

Fig	Real/Imag	Truncation interval
19	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm\infty$
20	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm\infty$
21	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-1}$
22	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-1}$
23	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-2}$
24	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-2}$
25	real( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-3}$
26	imag( $e(z)$ )	$\pm 10^{-3}$

Figures 27 and 28 are contour maps of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3}, \pm 10^{-4}, \pm 10^{-5}, \pm 10^{-6}, \pm 10^{-7}, \pm 10^{-8}\}$  as in the previous case.

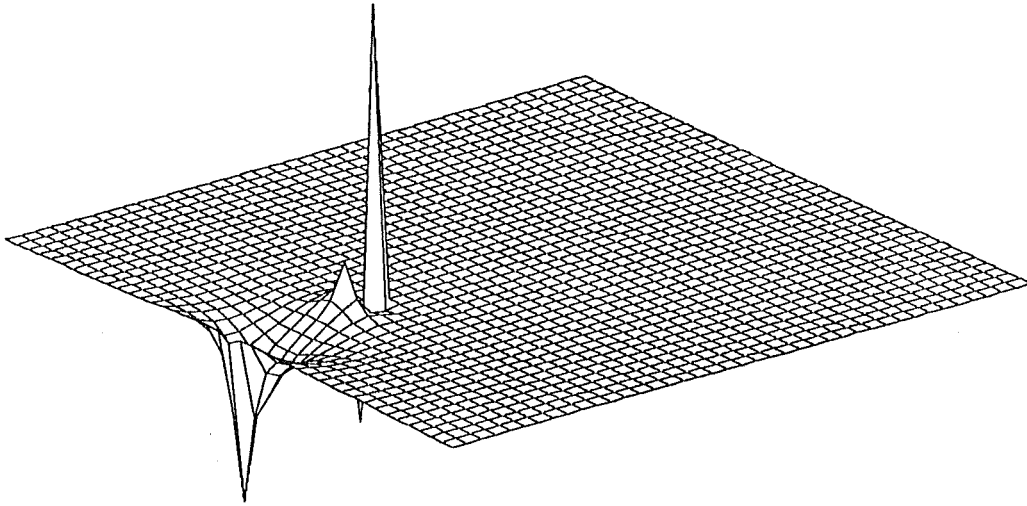


Figure 19  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$

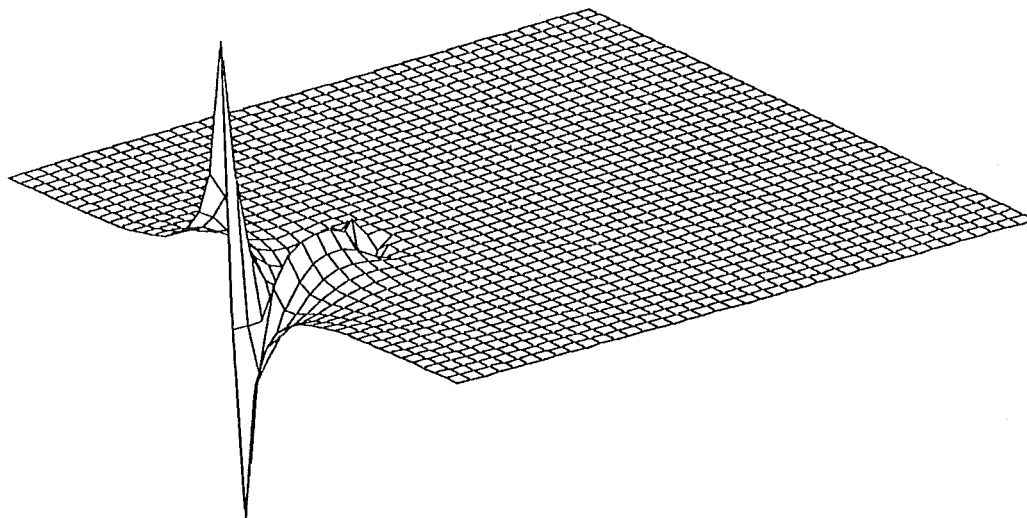


Figure 20  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$



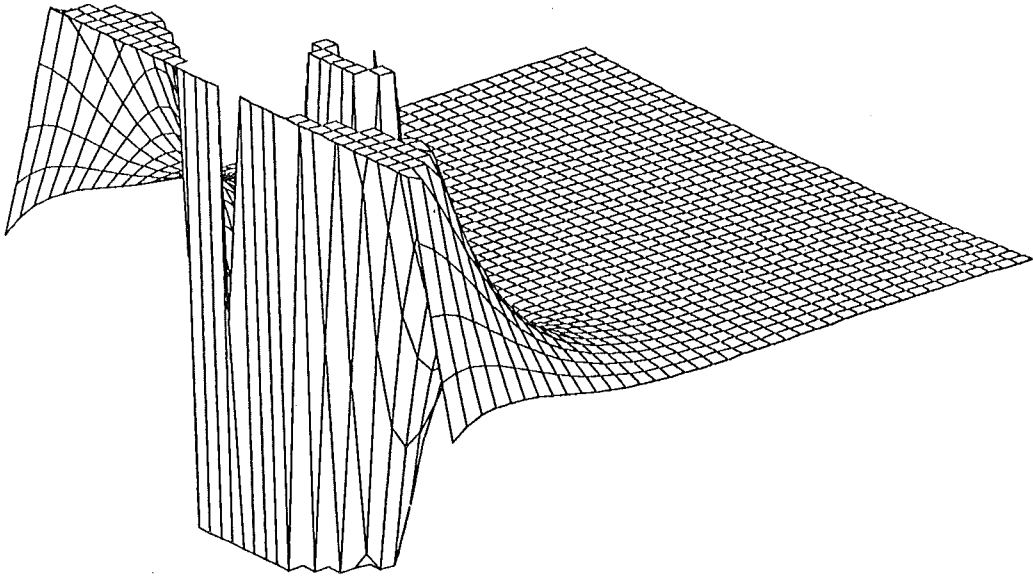


Figure 21  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

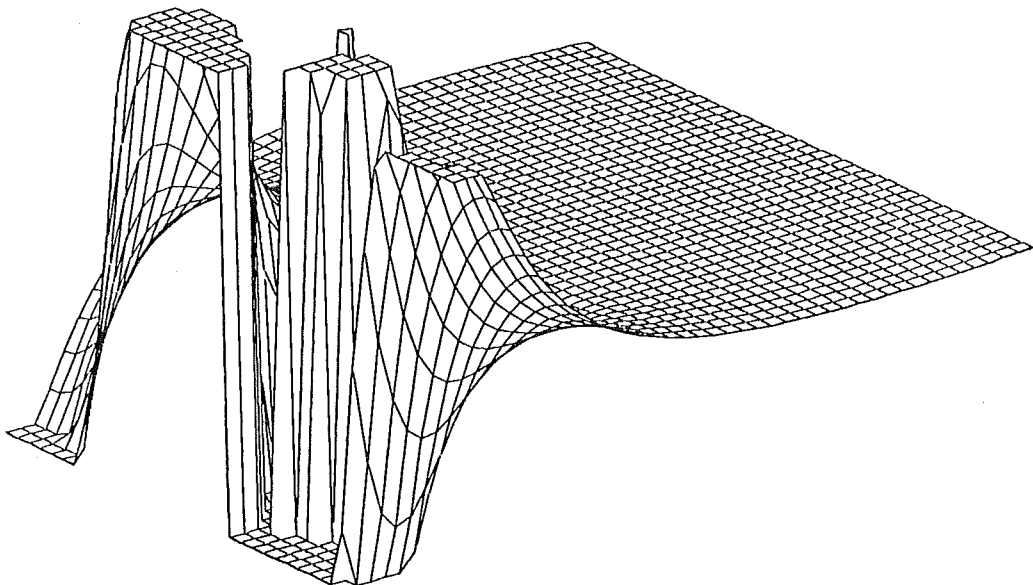


Figure 22  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

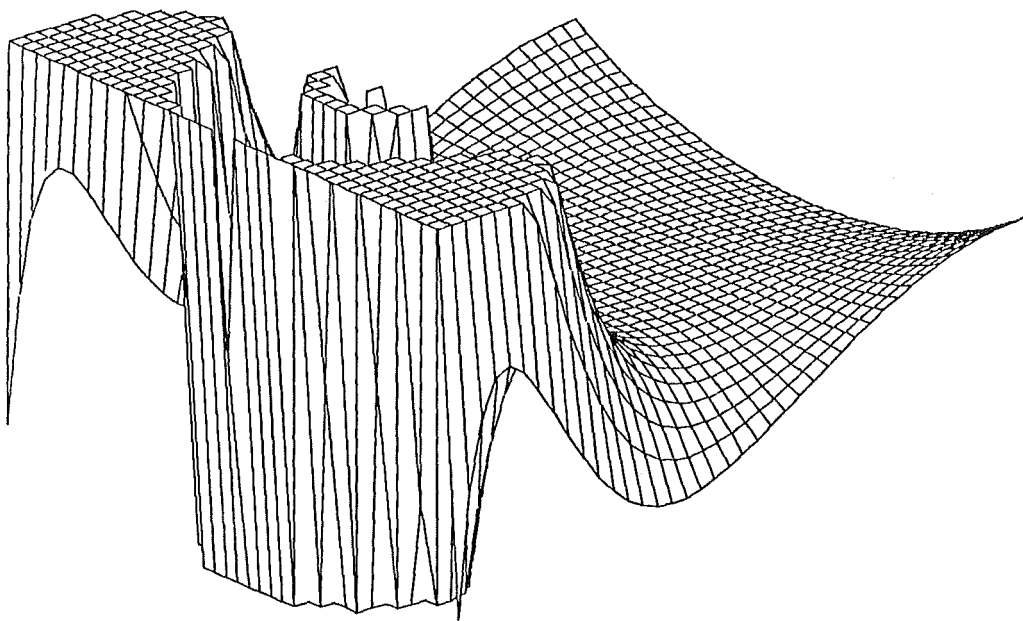


Figure 23  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-2}$

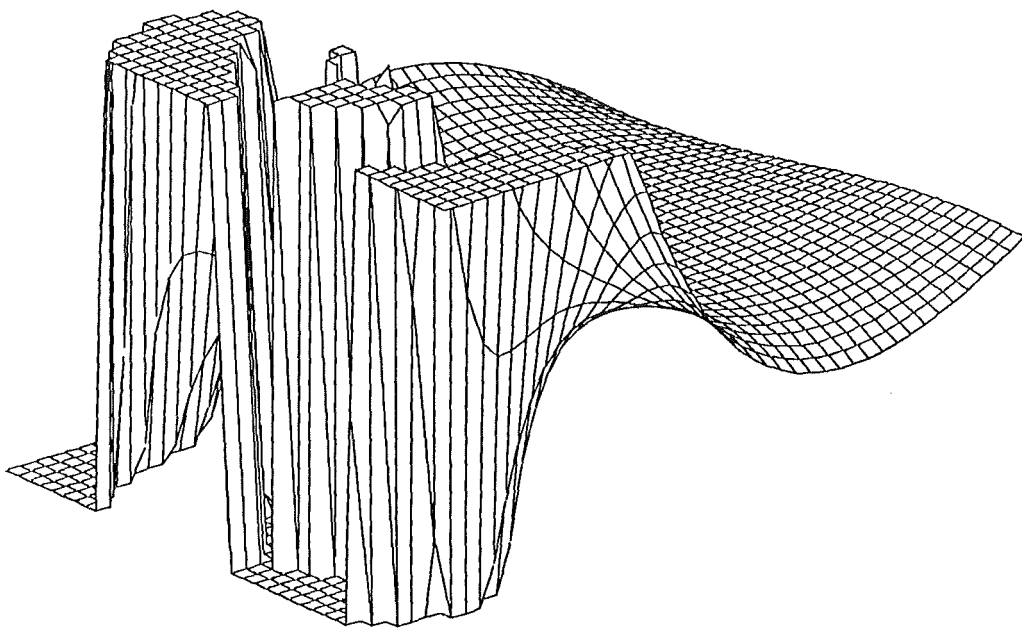


Figure 24  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-2}$

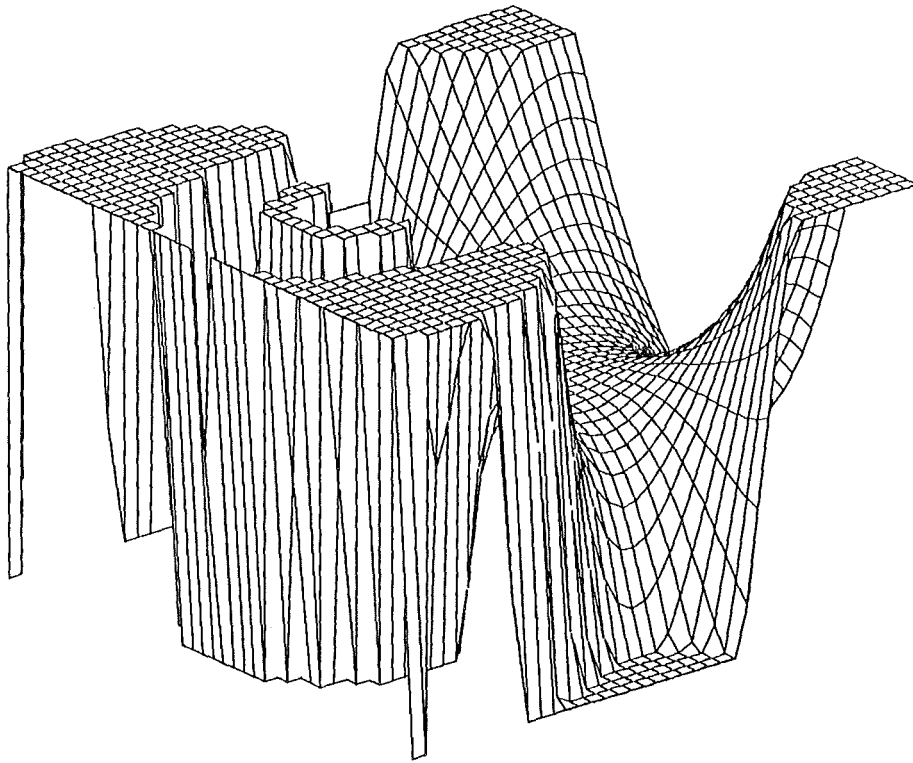


Figure 25  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

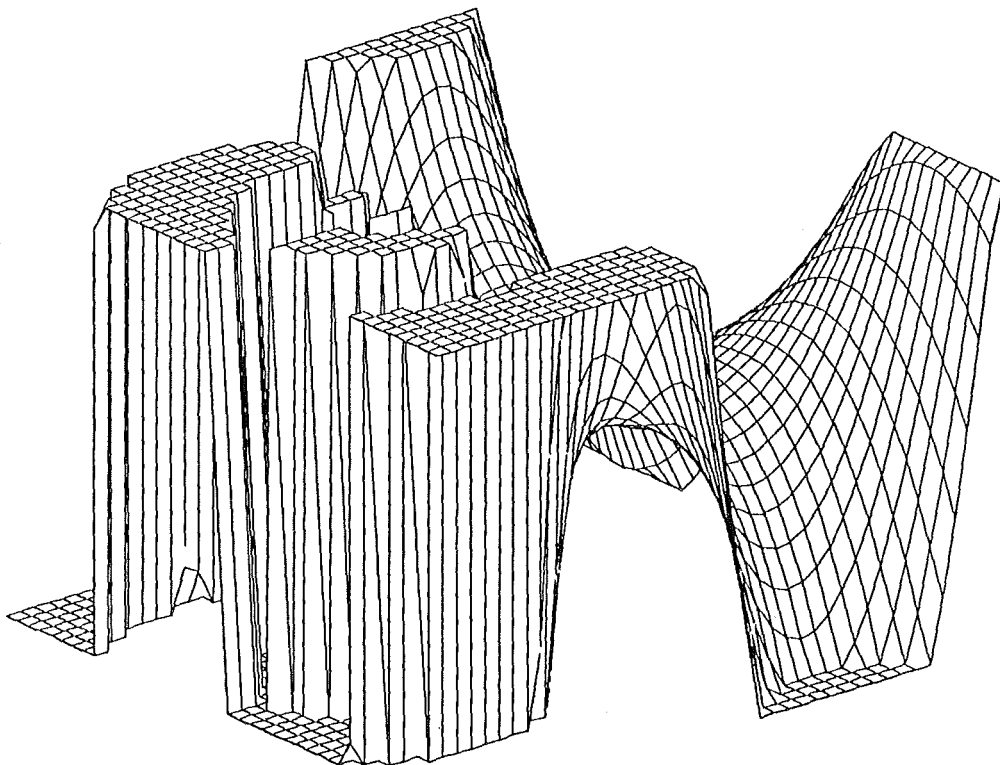


Figure 26  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

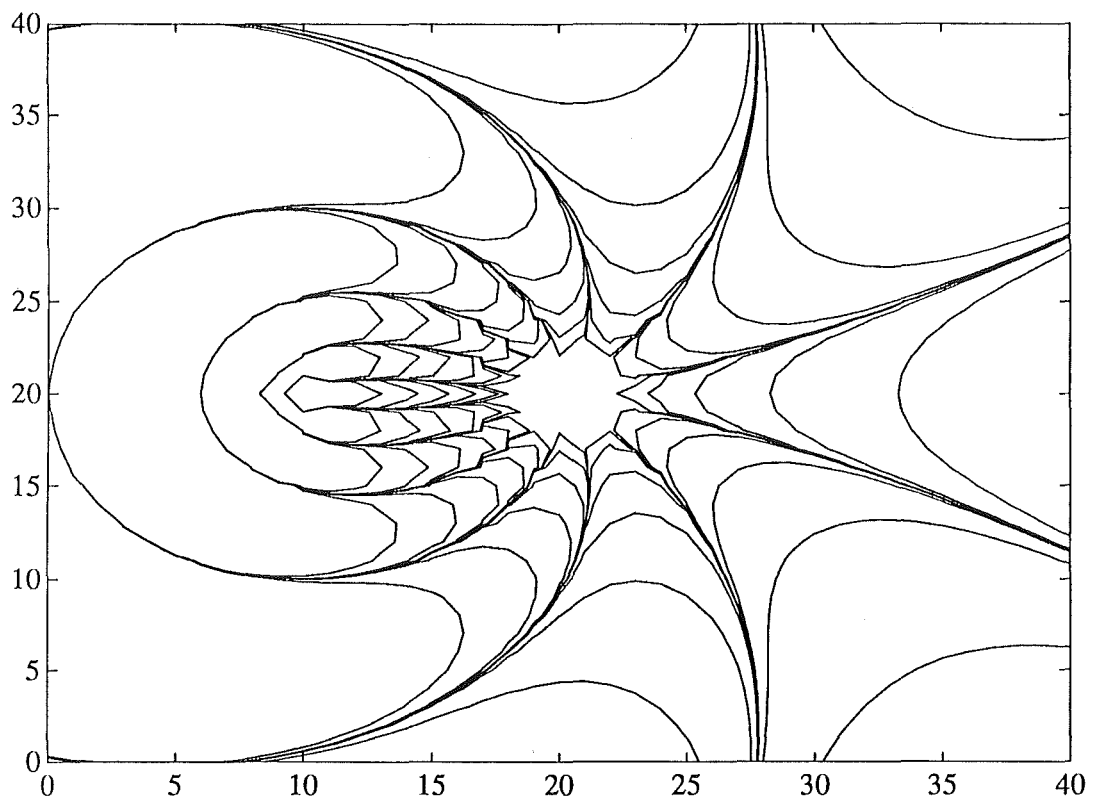


Figure 27 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

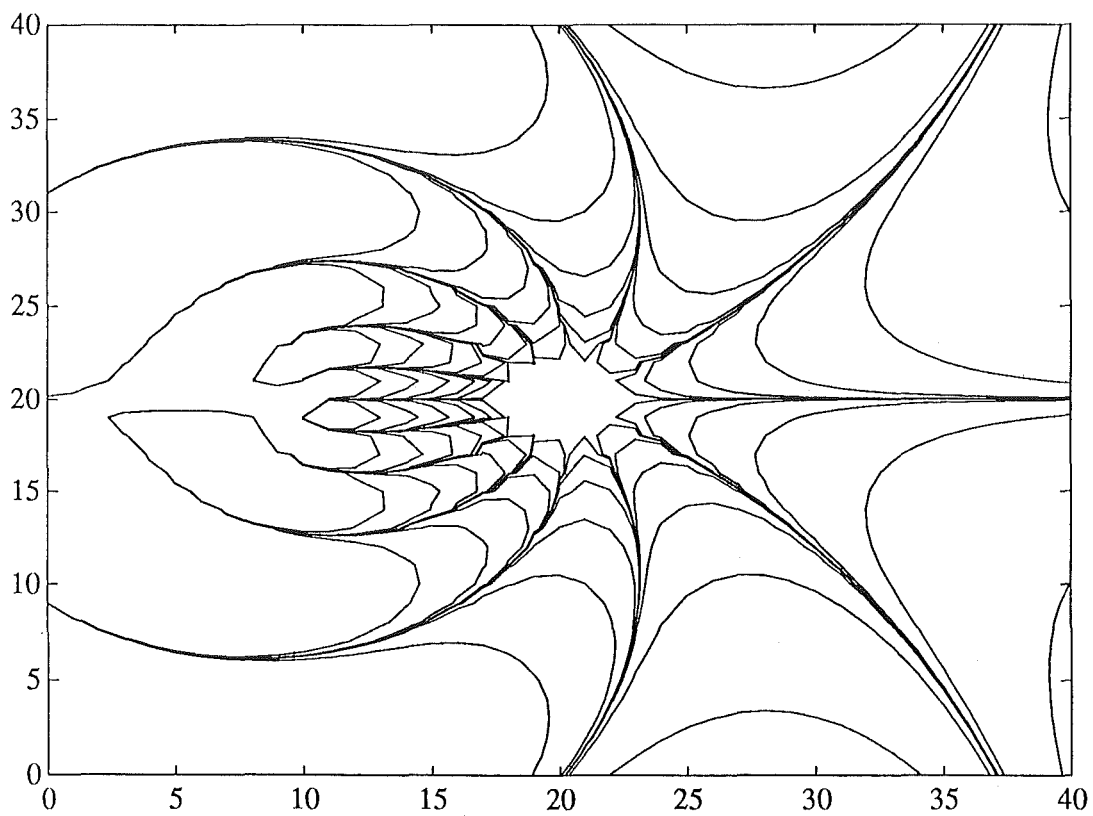


Figure 28 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

Consideration of these pictures makes it clear that  $y(z)$  (the quadratic function) is a considerably better approximation to  $f(z)$  than  $p(z)$  (the rational function) both around the origin and the branch point. Clearly the branch point structure of  $y(z)$  is very similar to that of  $f(z)$ .

### 3.1.3 The degree 6 Taylor polynomial approximation to $\log(1+x)$

Finally graphs of  $t(z)$ , the Taylor polynomial of degree 6 and the error function  $e(z) = t(z) - \log(1 + z)$  are given.  $t(z)$  is clearly inferior to both  $y(z)$  and  $p(z)$  as an approximation.

Figures 29 and 30 are the real and imaginary parts of  $t(z)$ .

Figures 31 and 32 are the real and imaginary parts of  $e(z)$  truncated at  $\pm 10^{-1}$ .

Figures 33 and 34 are contour maps of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ ,  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3}, \pm 10^{-4}, \pm 10^{-5}, \pm 10^{-6}, \pm 10^{-7}, \pm 10^{-8}\}$  as in the previous cases.

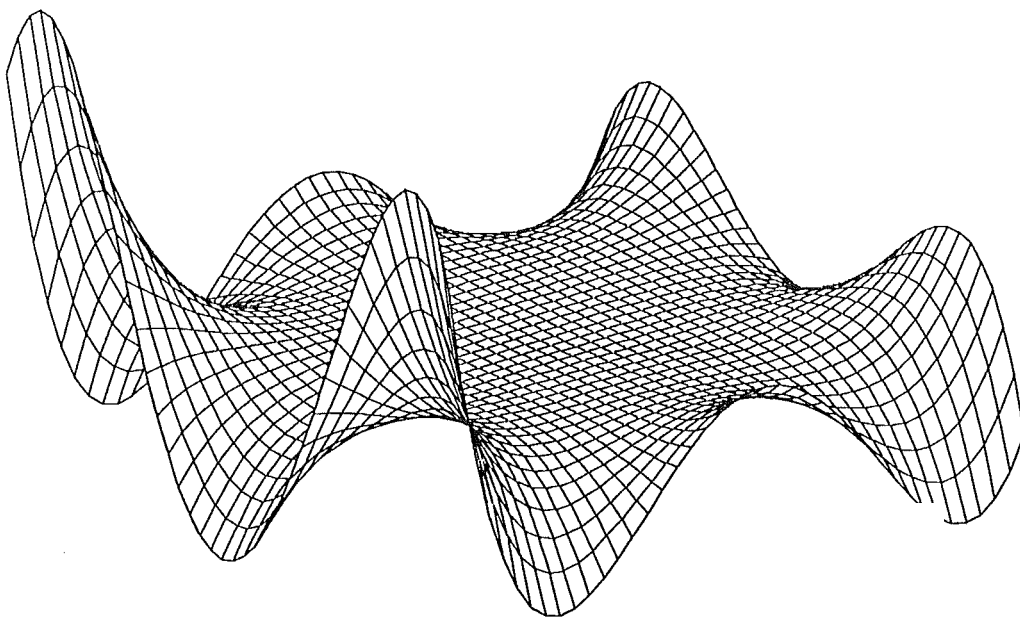


Figure 29  $\text{Real}(t(z))$ .

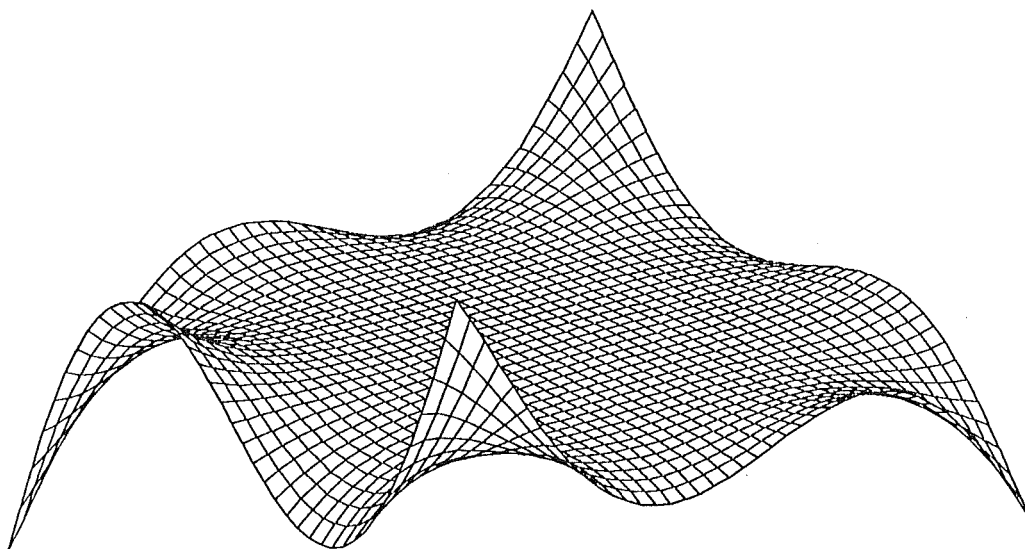


Figure 30  $\text{Imag}(t(z))$ .

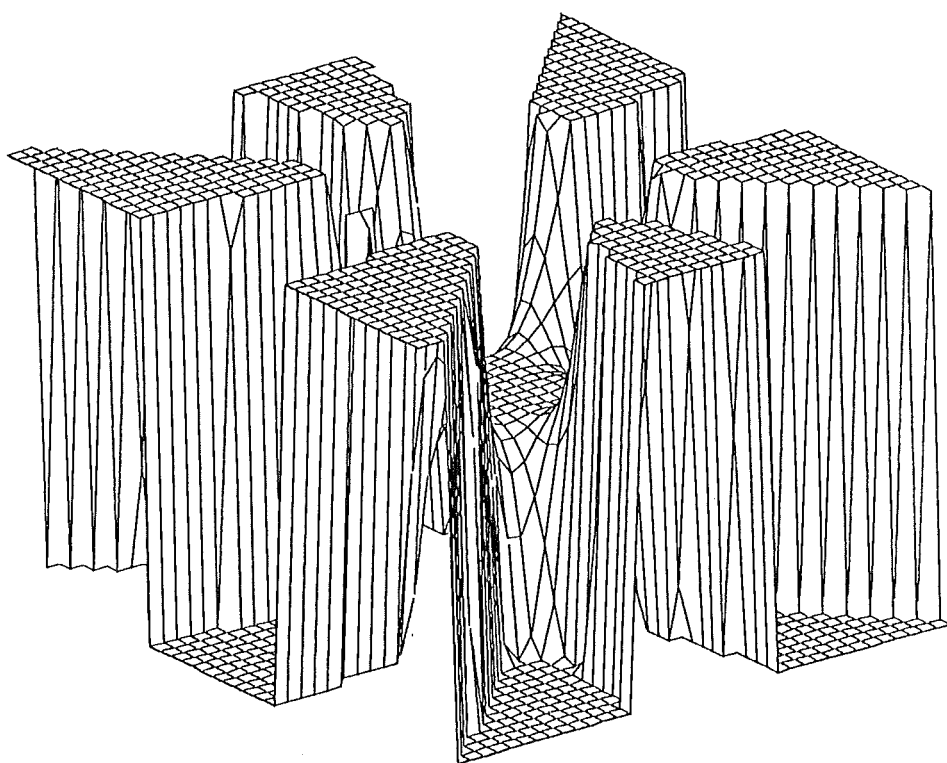


Figure 31  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

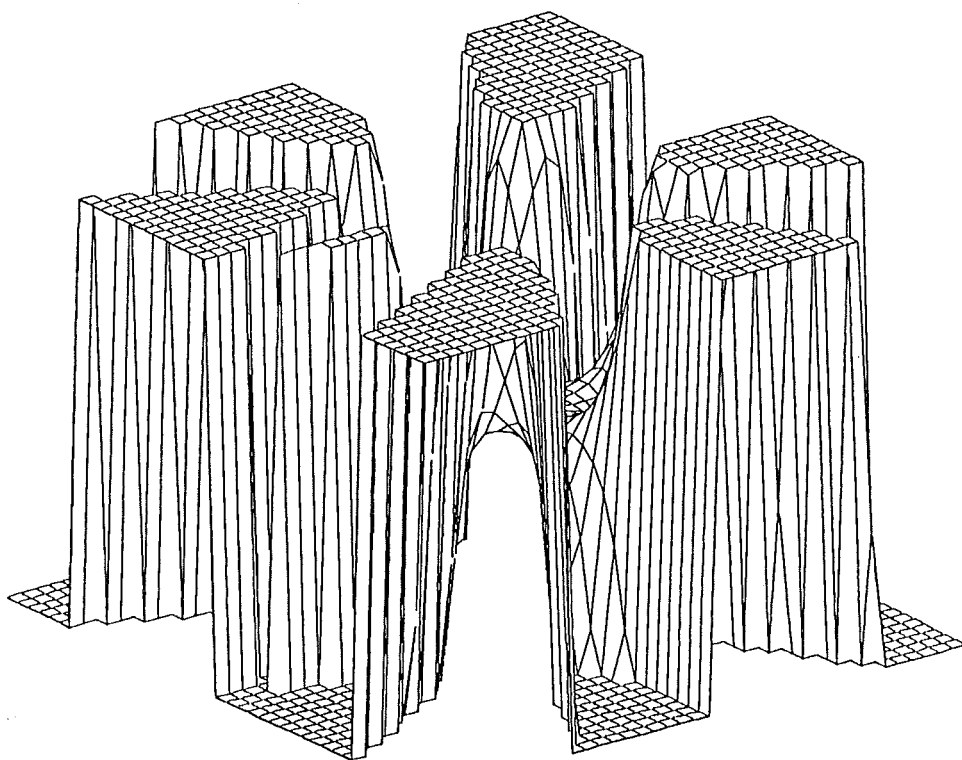


Figure 32  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

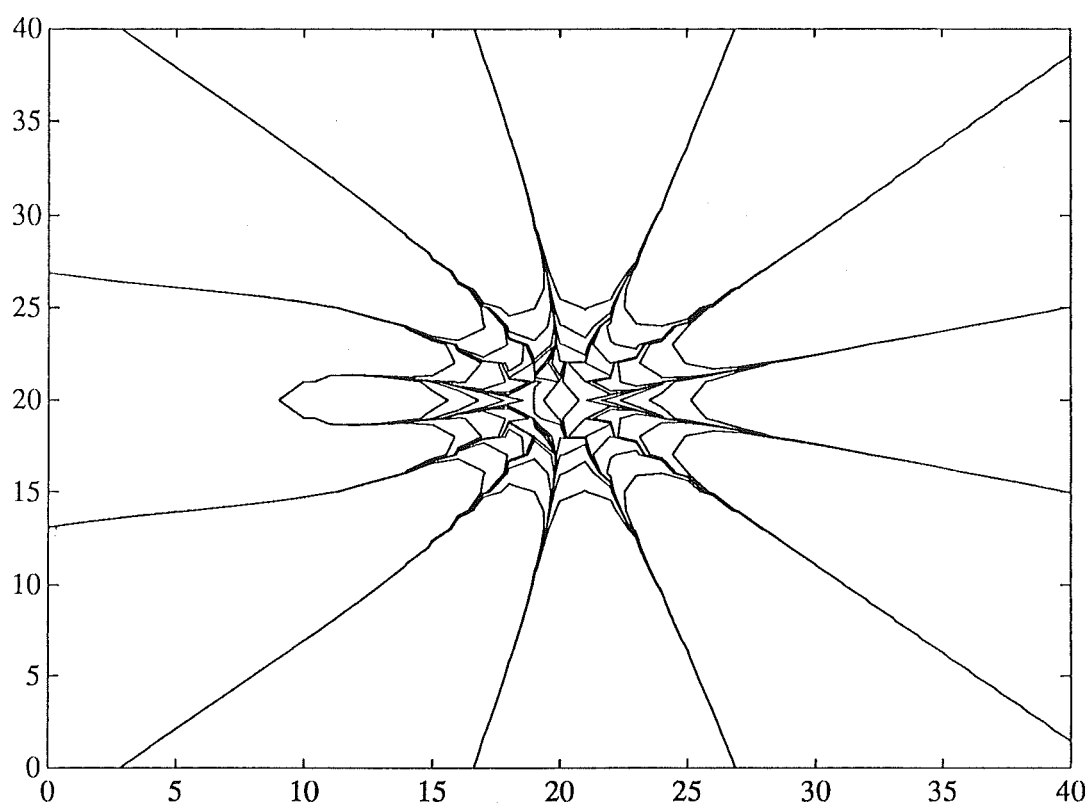


Figure 33 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

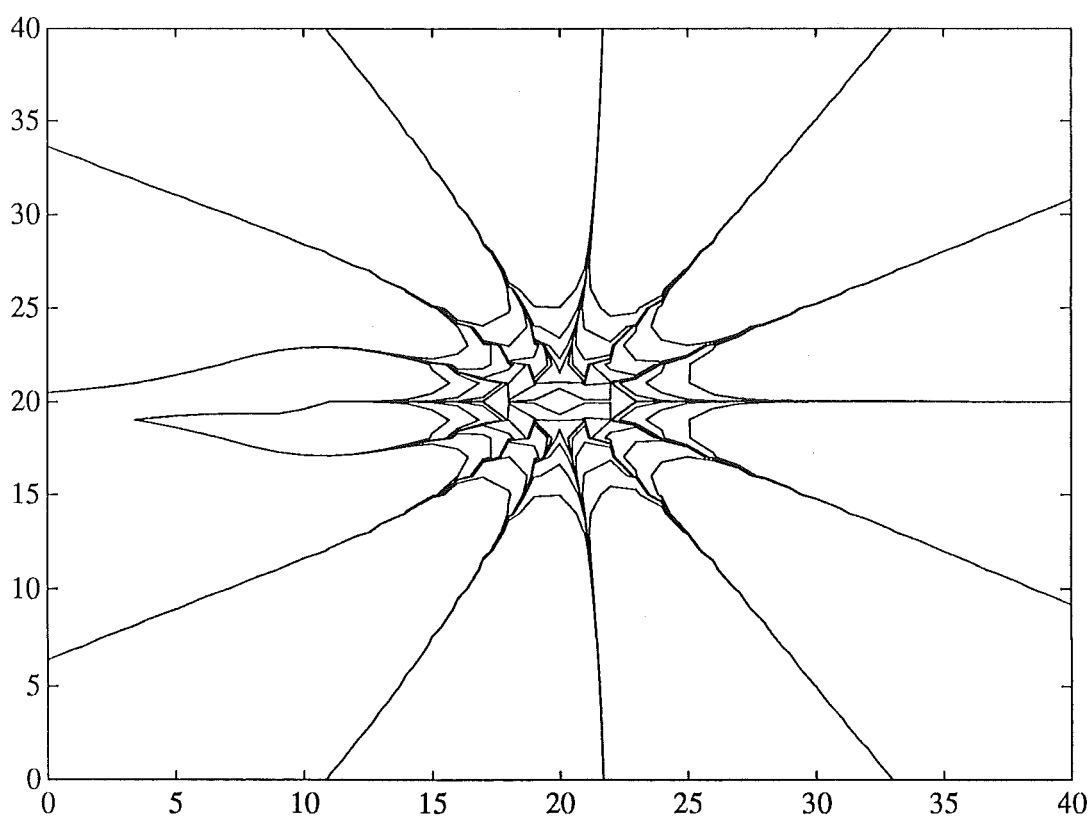


Figure 34 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .



## 3.2 Example 2

### 3.2.1 The (4,4,4) approximation to $\log(1+x)$ .

Note that :

(i)

$$\begin{aligned} & (6x^4 - 360x^3 + 180x^2 + 1080x + 540) f(x)^2 \\ & + (-75x^4 + 1620x^3 + 5310x^2 + 3540x) f(x) \\ & + 260x^4 - 4080x^3 - 4080x = O(x^{14}) \end{aligned}$$

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} D(x) = & -615x^8 + 229320x^7 - 4136580x^6 \\ & + 12612600x^5 + 59667300x^4 \\ & + 64033200x^3 + 21344400x^2. \end{aligned}$$

Let  $d(x) = D(x)/x^2$ . Using the results of [2] the approximation is :

$$y(x) = \frac{-a_1(x) + x\sqrt{d(x)}}{2a_2(x)}.$$

The roots of  $d(x)$  are :

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 354.0459 \\ x &= 10.8301 \pm 0.06444i \\ x &= -0.9155 \pm 0.0005i \\ x &= -0.9972 \end{aligned}$$

while the roots of  $a_2(x)$  are :

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 59.4440 \\ x &= 2.2298 \\ x &= -0.6904 \\ x &= -0.9835. \end{aligned}$$

To ensure that  $y(x)$  is single valued, cuts must be taken from the roots of  $d(x)$ . There are, of course, an infinite number of ways in which this may be done. It turns out that the simplest method gives a very good approximation to  $\log(1+x)$ . In the region presently under consideration  $d(x)$  has 3 zeros.  $x = -0.9972$  is close to the known branch point of  $f(x)$  at  $x = -1$  and this point is treated as in the previous example by taking  $(\infty, -0.9972]$  as a cut. The other zeros are the conjugate pair  $x = -0.9155 \pm 0.0005i$ . A cut could be taken from each point towards  $\infty$  but in view of the fact that  $f(x)$  is analytic on  $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{x \in \mathbb{R} : x \in (-\infty, -1]\}$

this choice cannot be expected to give a good approximation. The other alternative is to take a cut between the two points. In fact the behaviour of the two possible values of  $y(x)$  on the real axis close to these points (Fig.35) suggests that the best choice is to take the cut  $\{x + iy \in \mathbb{C} : x = -0.9155, |y| \leq 0.0005\}$ . It is of interest to note that this choice of cuts ensures that none of the roots of  $a_2(x)$  are poles of  $y(x)$ .

Fig.35 shows the real parts of both possible continuations of  $y(x)$  along the real axis; one,  $y_+(x)$ , denoted by a solid line, the other  $y_-(x)$ , by “\*”.  $y_+(x)$ , which is the analytic continuation of  $y(x)$  along the real axis, has a pole at  $z = -0.9835$ . The effect of taking the cut between the points  $z = -0.9155 \pm 0.0005i$  is to “jump” from  $y_+(x)$  to  $y_-(x)$  at  $x = -0.9155$ . Fig.36 shows  $\text{real}(\log(1+x))$  (although  $\text{real}(\log(0)) = -\infty$ ) and Fig.37 shows simultaneously  $\text{real}(\log(1+x))$  and  $\text{real}(y(x))$  our approximation.

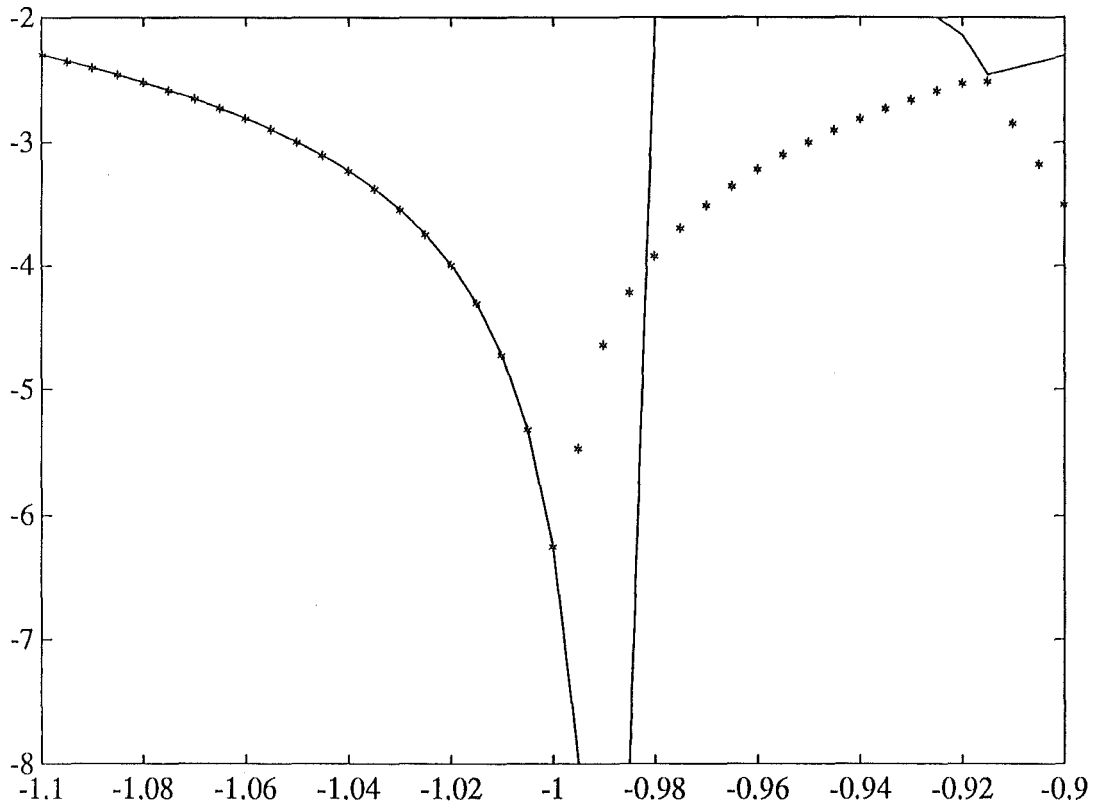


Figure 35

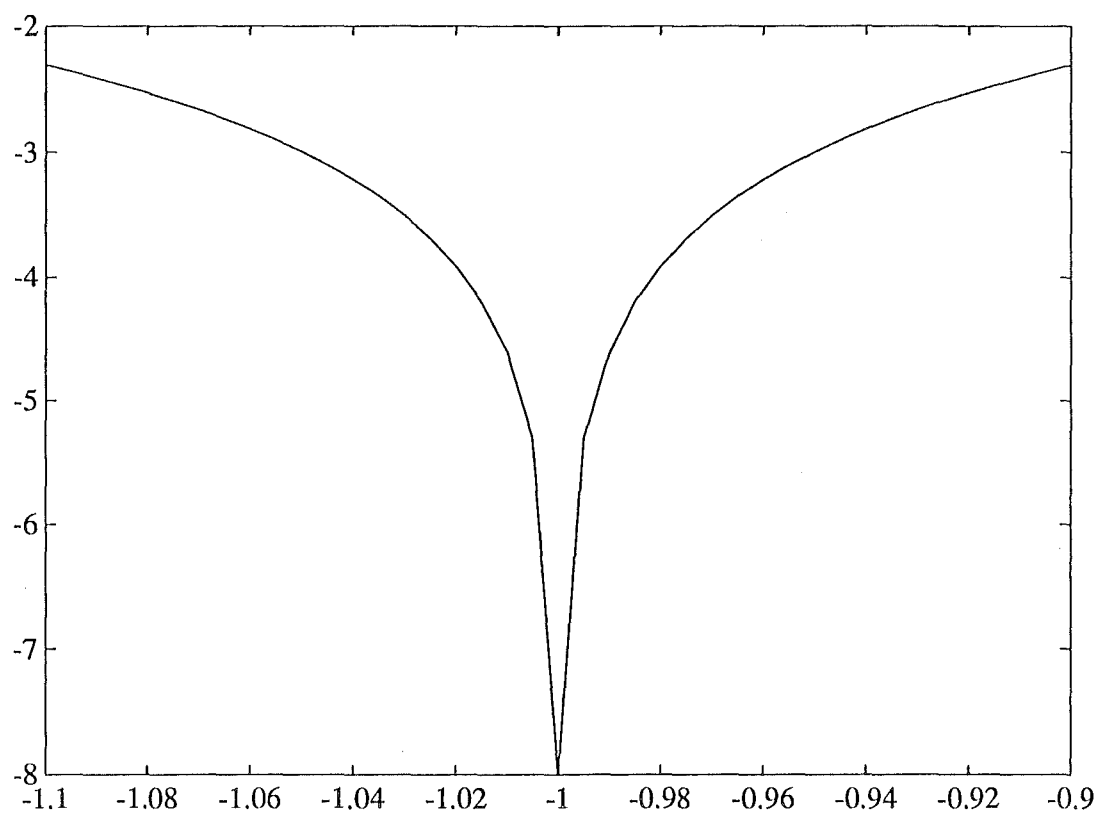


Figure 36

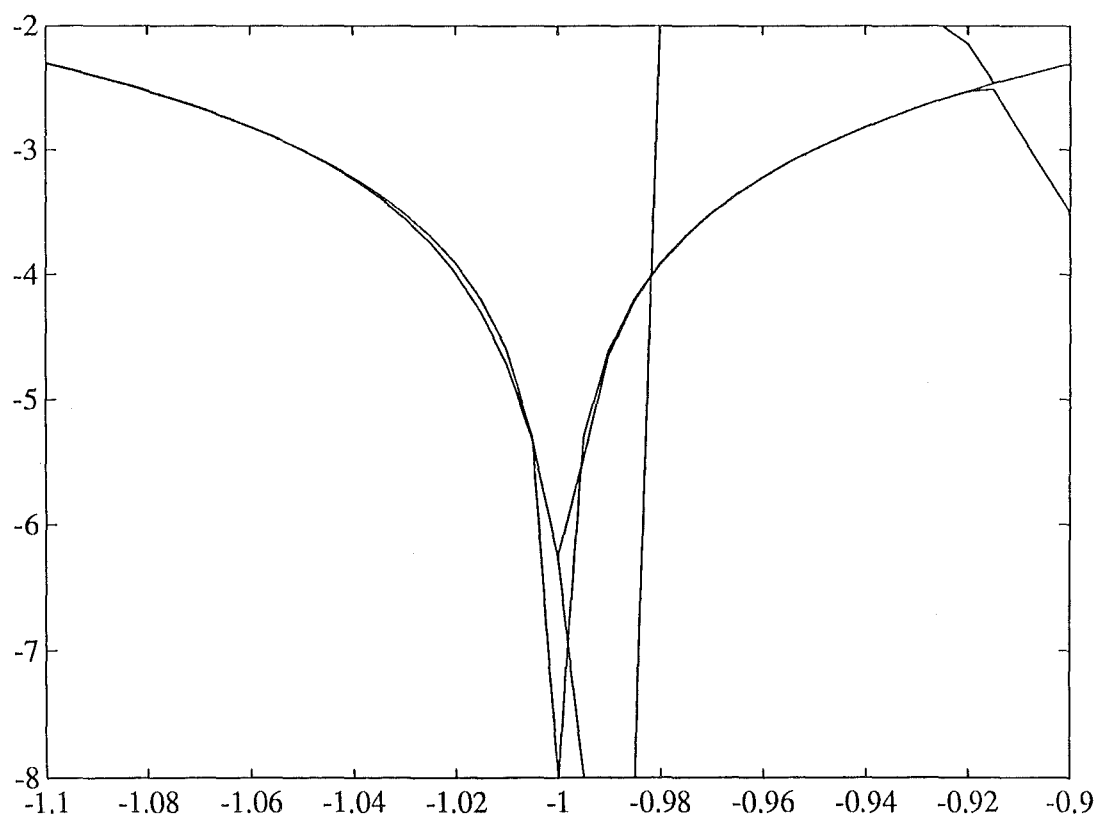


Figure 37

$R \subseteq \{x + iy \in \mathbb{C} : |x| \leq 2, |y| \leq 2\}$  has now been defined so that  $y(z)$  has a unique analytic continuation on  $R$ . It remains to calculate  $y(z)$  at points in  $R$ . Clearly it is not sufficient to just write

$$y(z) = \frac{-a_1(z) + x\sqrt{d(z)}}{2a_2(z)}$$

and the attempt to do so results in  $\text{imag}(y(z))$  behaving as in Fig.38.

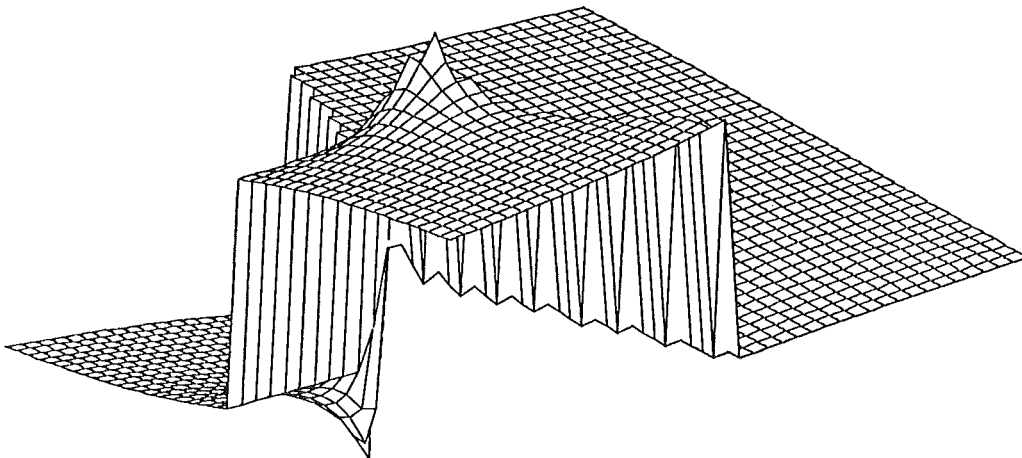


Figure 38

It is necessary to follow a path inside  $R$  “analytically” from the origin to each point. The following algorithm is used for this “analytic” procedure.

### Algorithm.

The process is given for the first quadrant only. The rest are similar. (Note that  $i^2 = -1$ ).

```
sign = 1
dz(0,0) =  $\sqrt{d(0)}$ 
arg1 = arg(dz(0,0))
For j = 0.1 step 0.1 to 2 do
    dz(0,j) = sign  $\sqrt{d(ji)}$ 
    arg2 = arg (dz(0,j))
    If  $|\arg1 - \arg2| > \frac{2\pi}{3}$  then
        sign = - sign
        dz(0,j) = -dz(0,j)
        arg2 = arg (dz(0,j))
    end
    arg1 = arg2
end.
```

Note that  $dz(0,j)$  now has the appropriate value of  $\sqrt{d(z)}$  for  $z = 0 + ji$ . To cover the remainder of points we step outward in lines from the imaginary axis as follows :

```
For j = 0 step 0.1 to 2 do
    sign = 1
    z = ji
    arg1 = arg(dz(0,j))
    For k = 0.1 step 0.1 to 2 do
        z = k + ji
        dz(k,j) = sign  $\sqrt{d(z)}$ 
        arg2 = arg (dz(k,j))
        If  $|\arg1 - \arg2| > \frac{2\pi}{3}$  then
            sign = - sign
            dz(k,j) = -dz(k,j)
            arg2 = arg (dz(k,j))
        end
        arg1 = arg2
    end
end
```

It now remains only to form the matrix

$$\frac{-a_1(z) + z dz(k, j)}{2a_2(z)}, z = k + j\mathbf{i}$$

to get  $y(z)$  on all points of the mesh. Graphs of the real and imaginary parts of  $y(z)$  and  $e(z) = y(z) - \log(1 + z)$  along with contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  are now presented.

Fig	Real/Imag	Truncation
39	$\text{real}(y(z))$	$\pm\infty$
40	$\text{imag}(y(z))$	$\pm\infty$
41	$\text{real}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-1}$
42	$\text{imag}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-1}$
43	$\text{real}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-3}$
44	$\text{imag}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-3}$
45	$\text{real}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-5}$
46	$\text{imag}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-5}$
47	$\text{real}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-8}$
48	$\text{imag}(e(z))$	$\pm 10^{-8}$

Figures 45 and 50 are contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3} \pm 10^{-4}, \dots, \pm 10^{-8}\}$ .

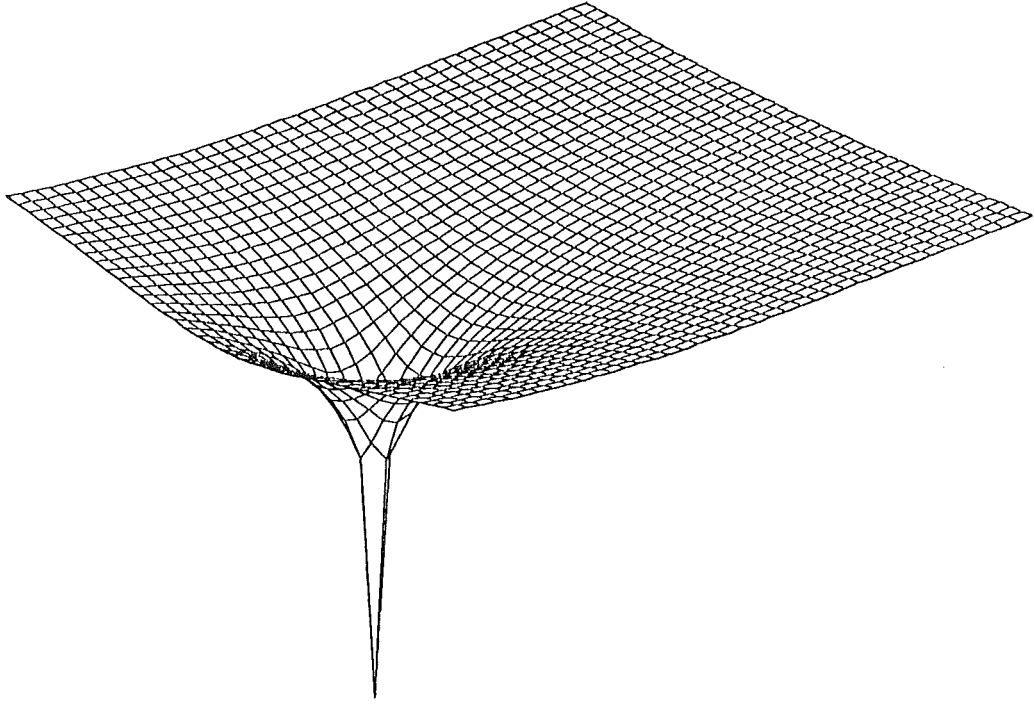


Figure 39  $\text{Real}(y(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$

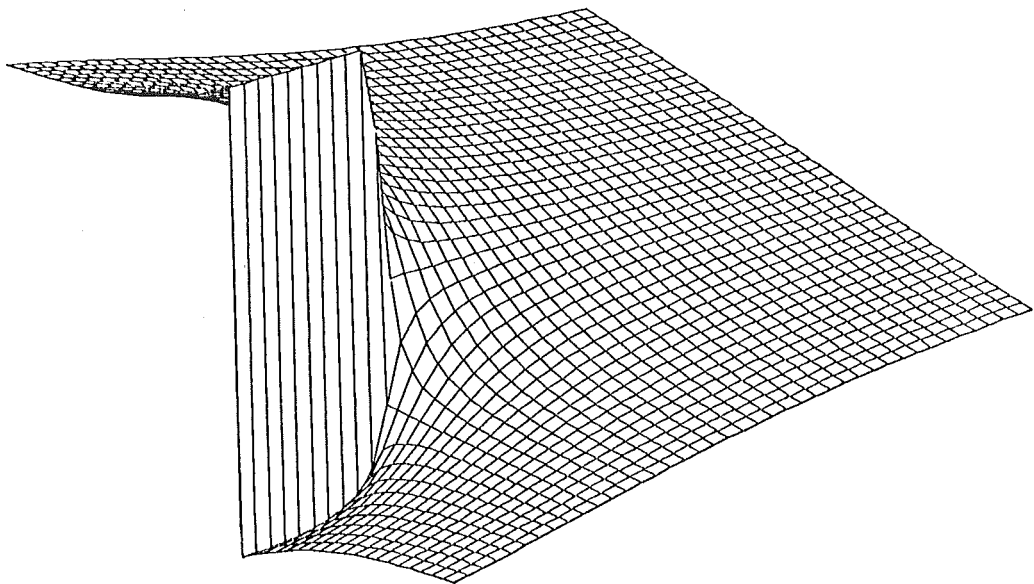


Figure 40  $\text{Imag}(y(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm\infty$

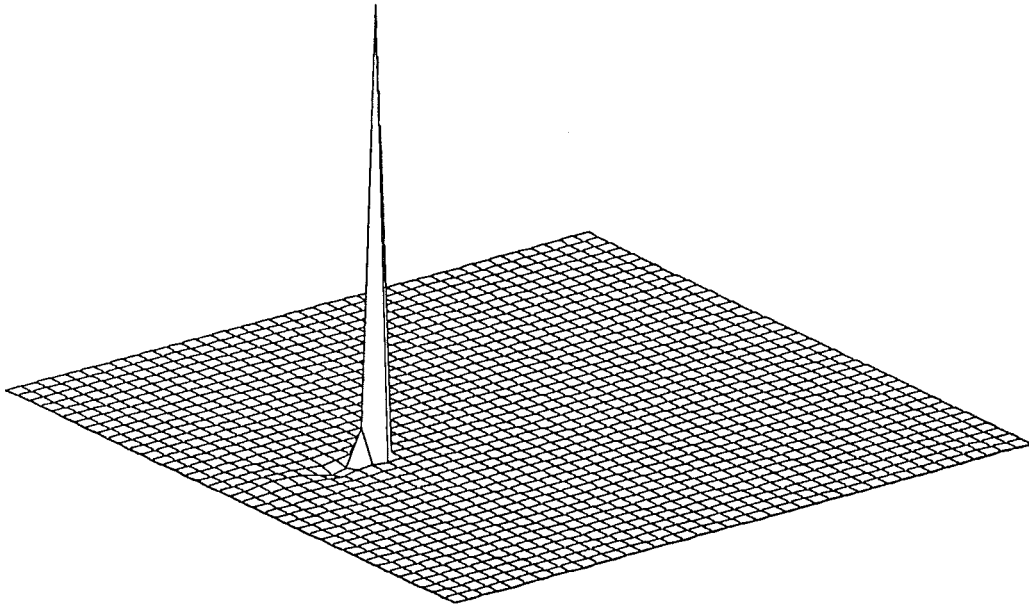


Figure 41  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$

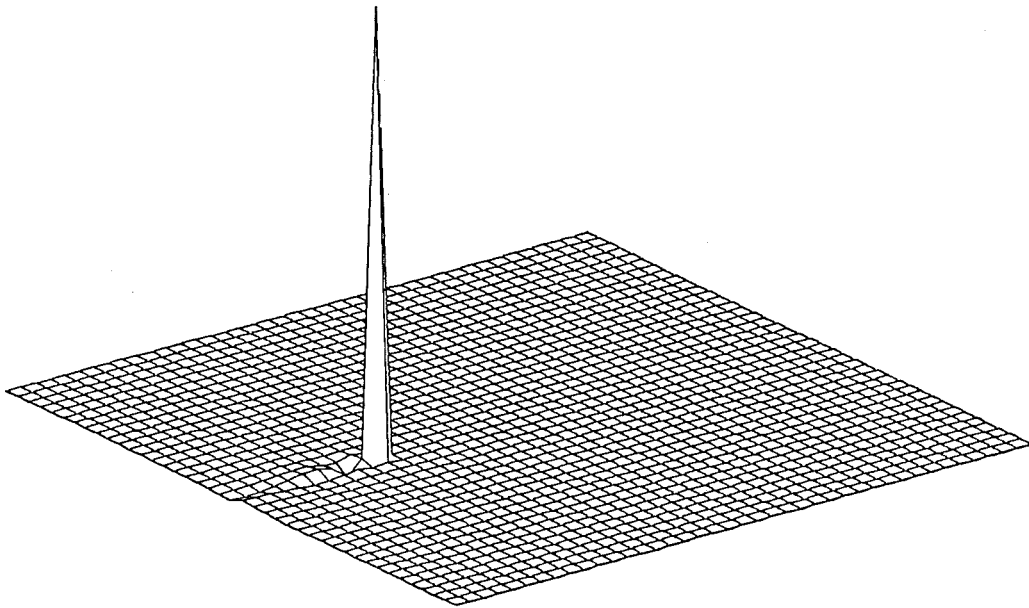


Figure 42  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-1}$



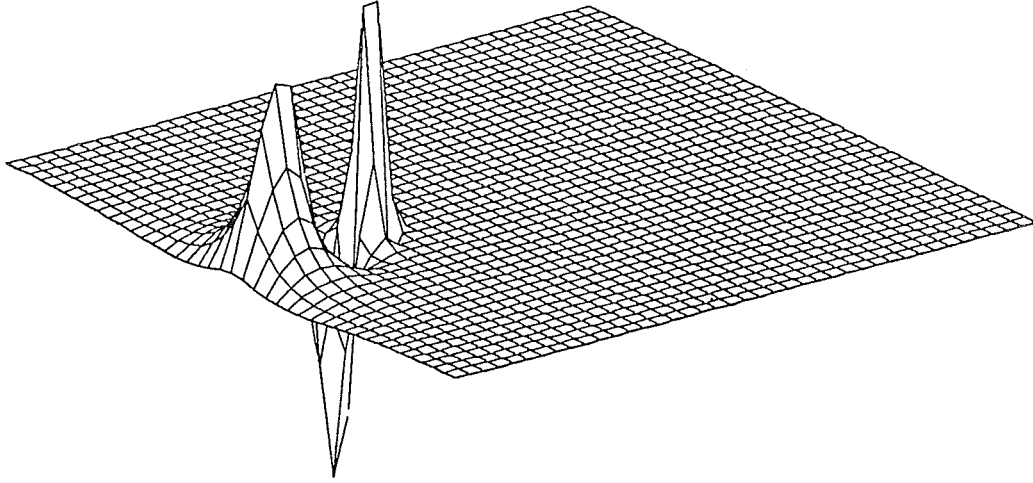


Figure 43  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

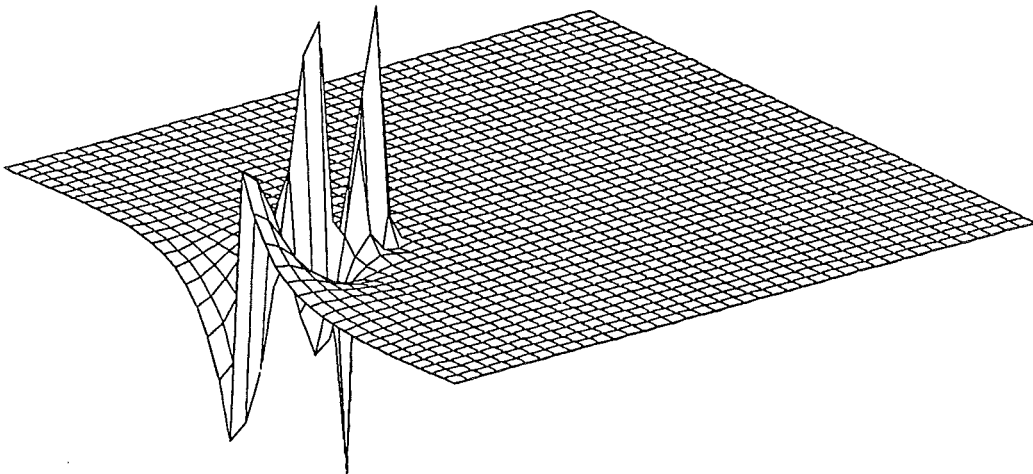


Figure 44  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-3}$

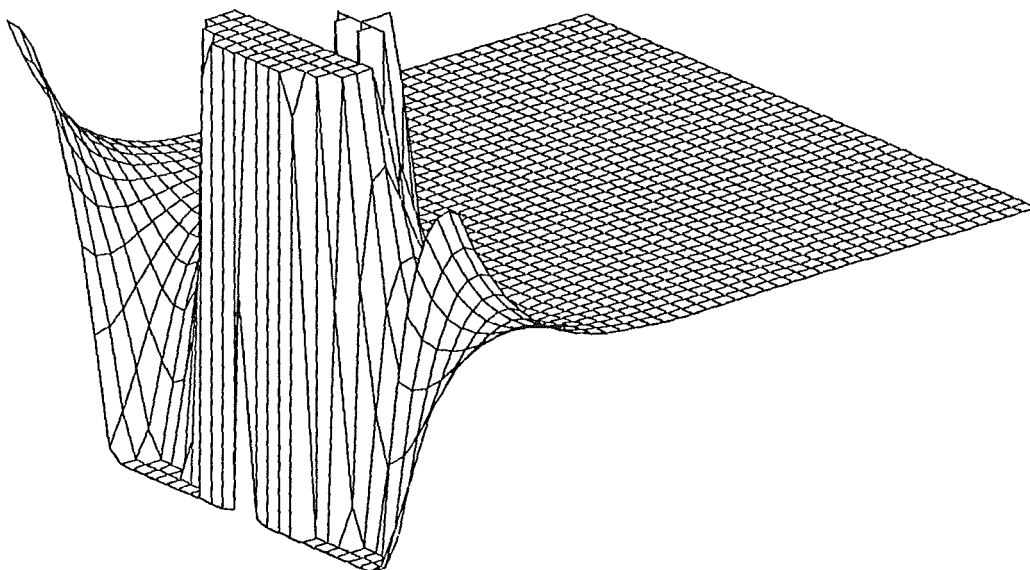


Figure 45  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-5}$

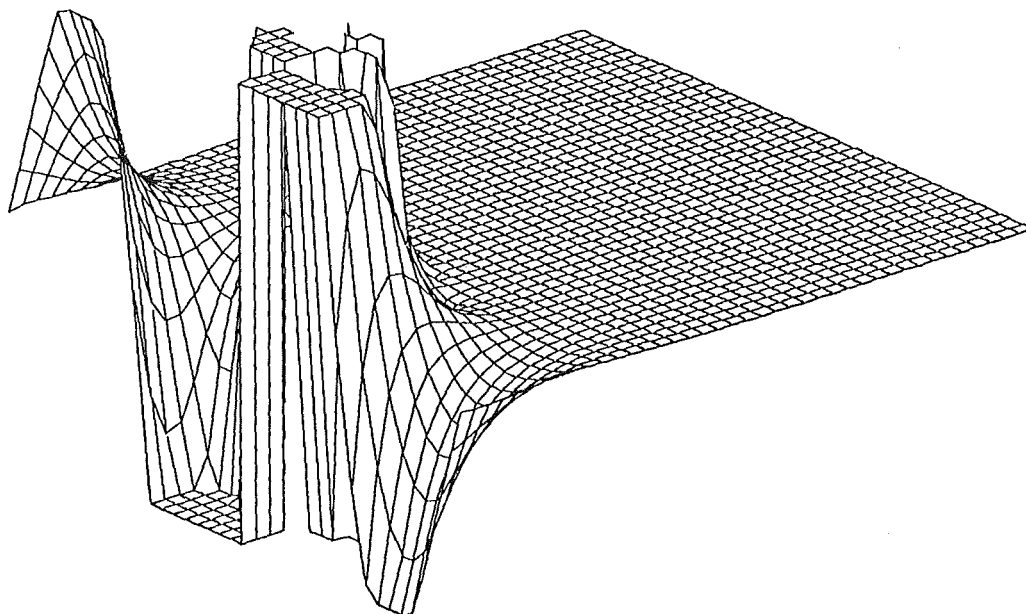


Figure 46  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-5}$

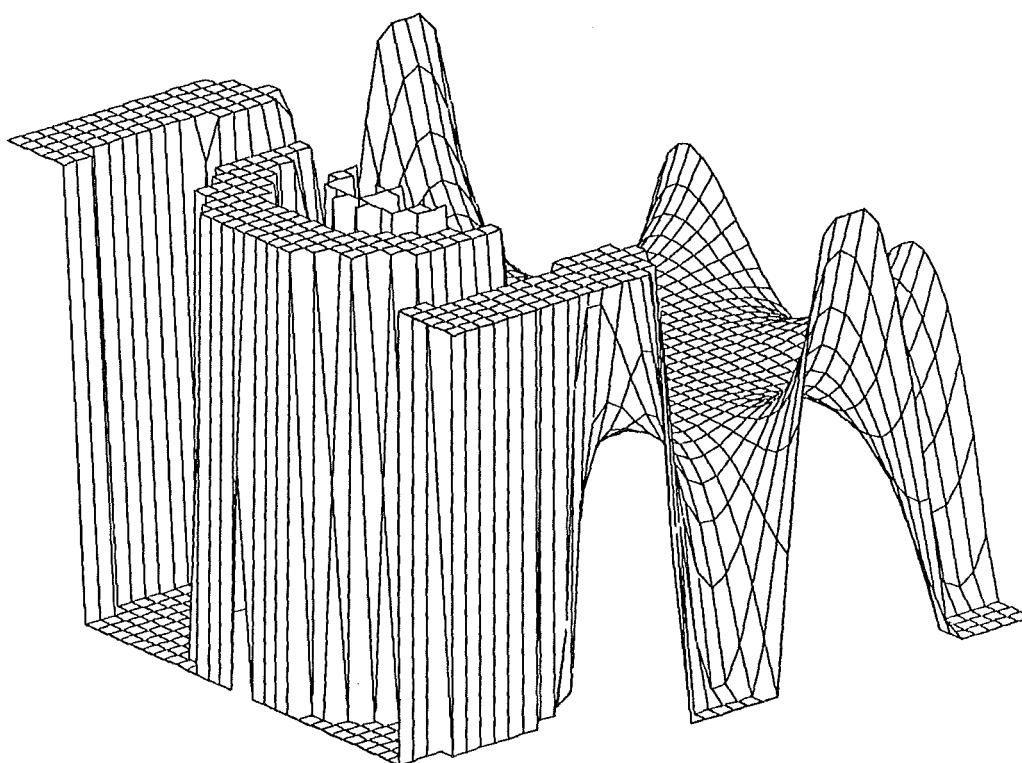


Figure 47  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-8}$

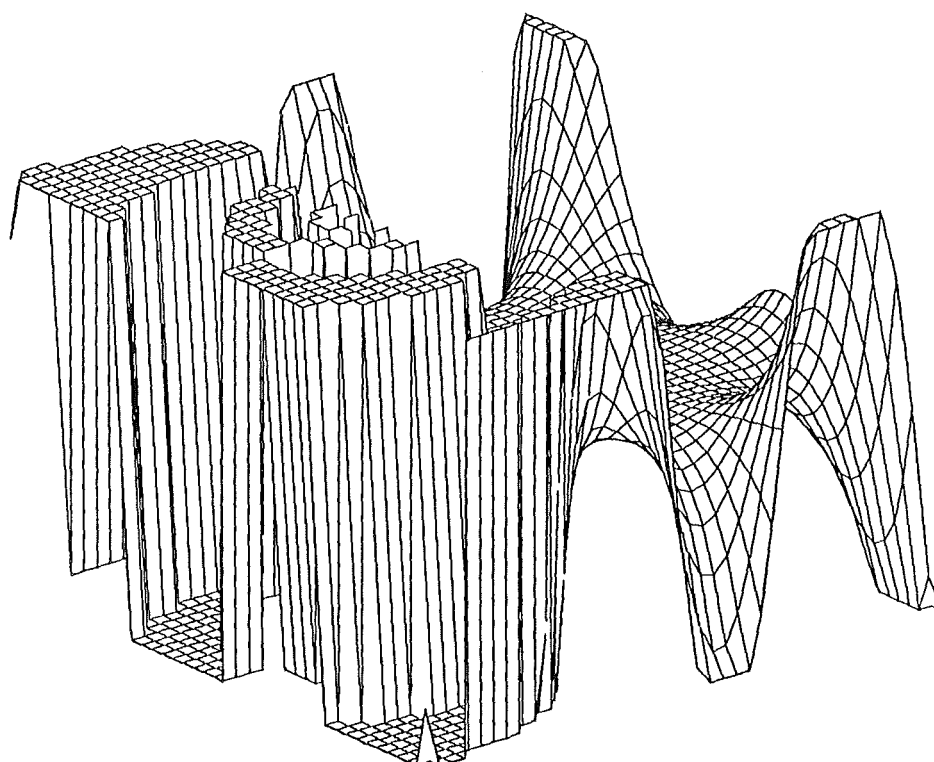


Figure 48  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ . Truncation  $\pm 10^{-8}$

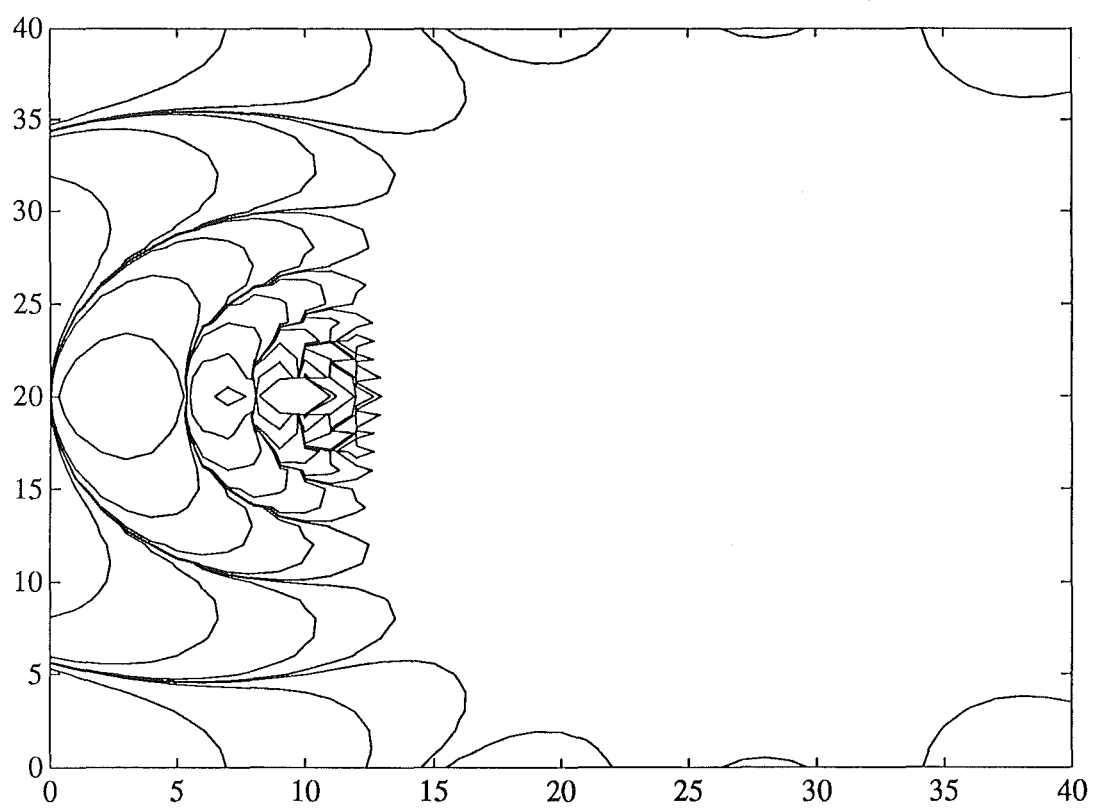


Figure 49 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

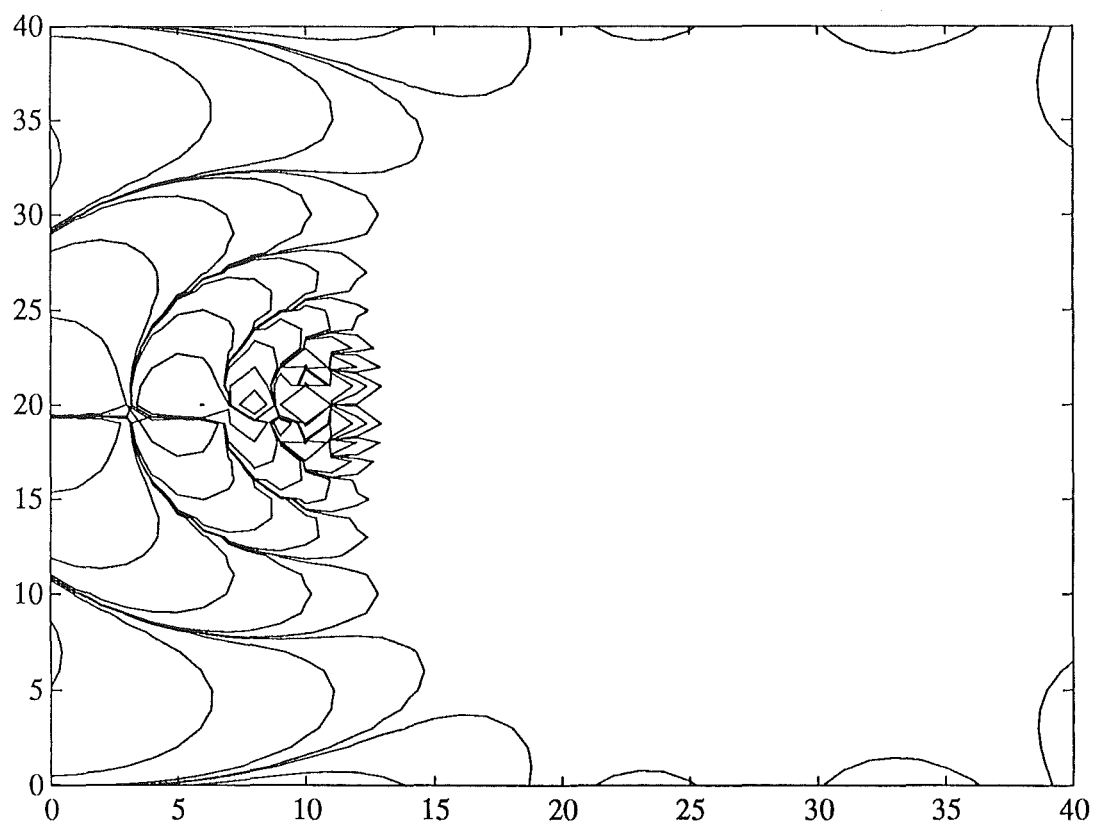


Figure 50 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

### 3.2.2 A comparison with the (6,6) Padé approximation to $\log(1+x)$ .

Note that

$$p(x) = \frac{49x^6 + 1218x^5 + 7980x^4 + 20720x^3 + 23100x^2 + 9240x}{10x^6 + 420x^5 + 4200x^4 + 16800x^3 + 31500x^2 + 27720x + 9240}$$

and that

$$\begin{aligned} y(x) &= f(x) + O(x^{13}) \\ p(x) &= f(x) + O(x^{13}) . \end{aligned}$$

Figures 51 and 52 are graphs of  $\text{real}(p(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(p(z))$  while figures 53 and 54 are contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3}, \pm 10^{-4}, \dots, \pm 10^{-8}\}$ .

Clearly  $p(x)$  is inferior to  $y(x)$  as an approximation and examination of the Taylor polynomial of degree 12 shows that it is still less accurate.

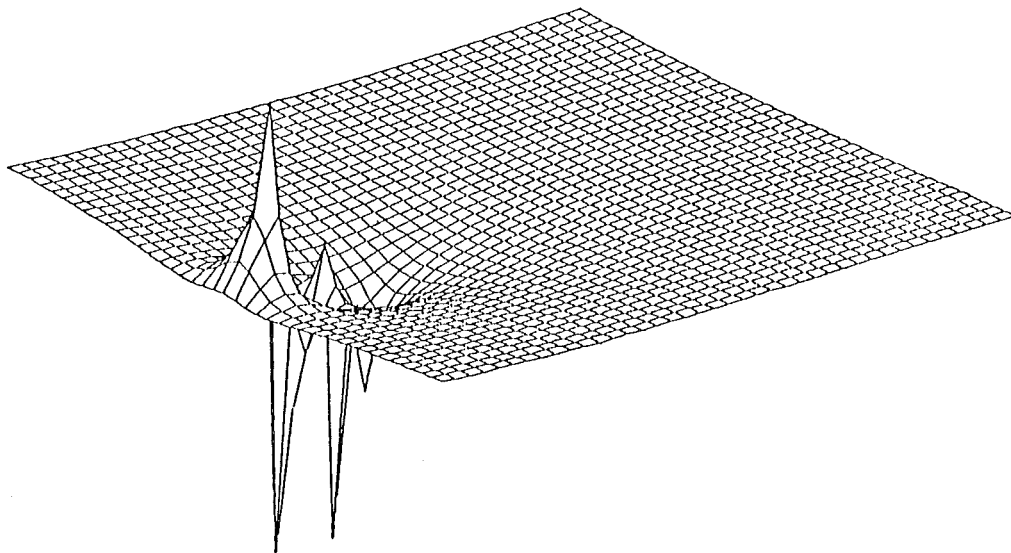


Figure 51  $\text{Re}(p(z))$ .

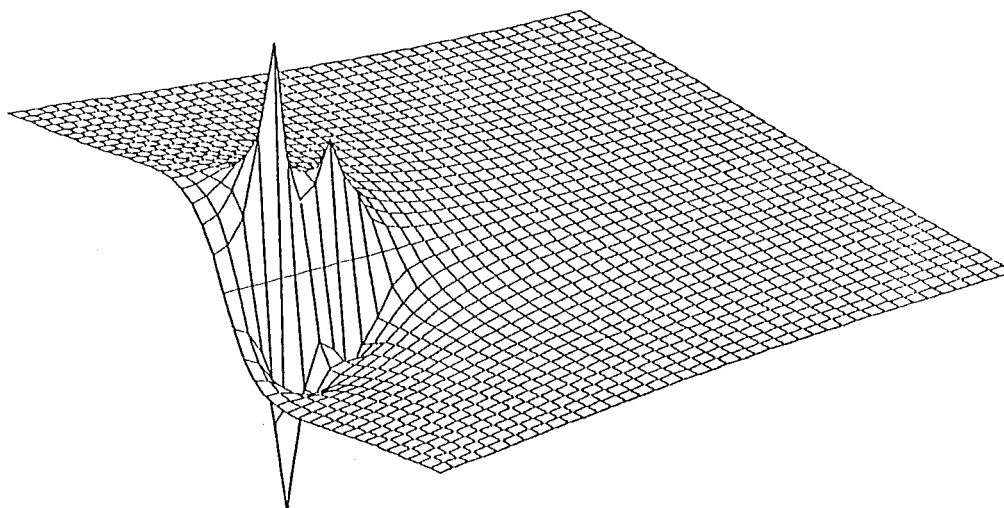
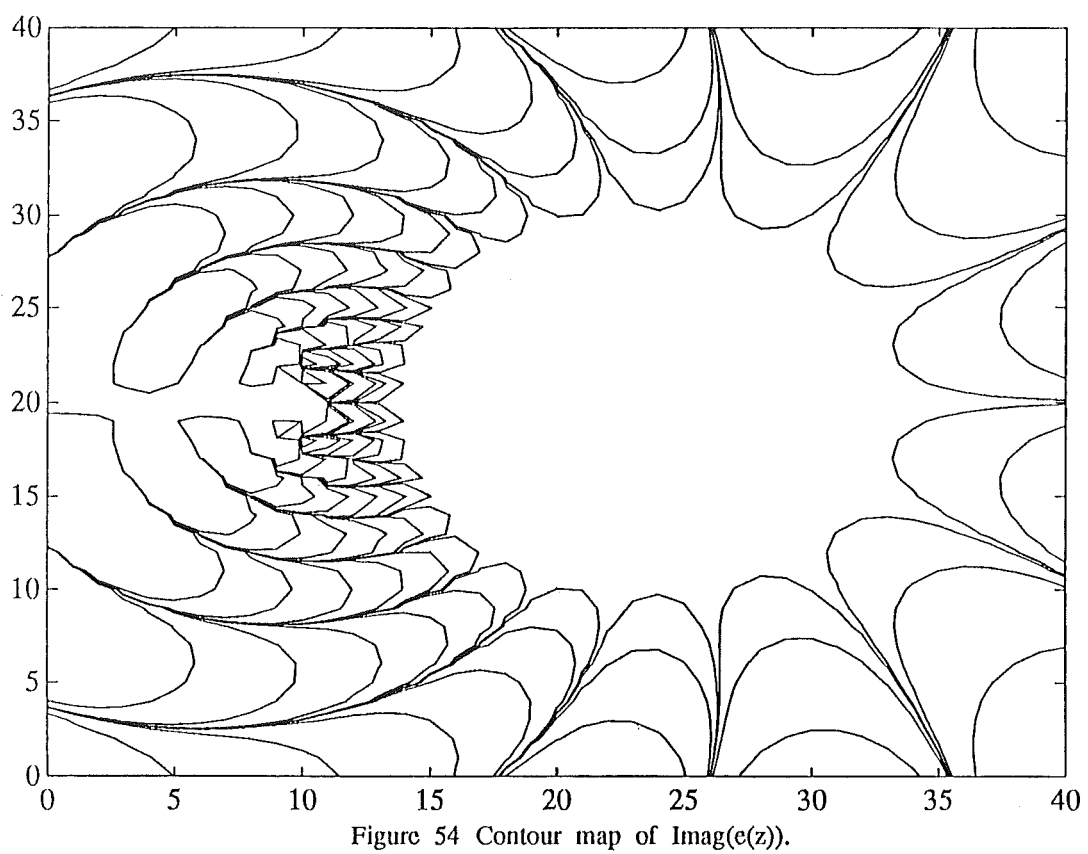
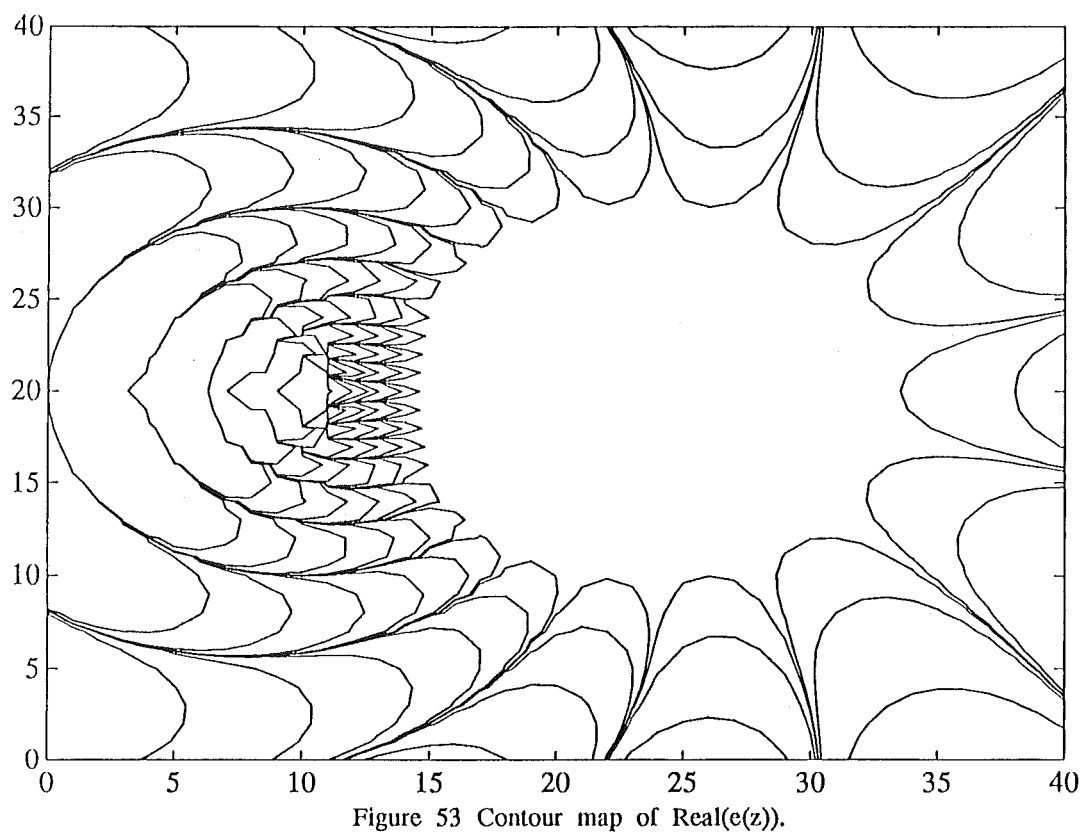


Figure 52  $\text{Im}(p(z))$ .



### 3.3 Example 3

#### 3.3.1 The (2,2,2) approximation to $e^{-x}$ .

Note that

$$(x^2 + 9x + 24) f(x)^2 - (8x^2 + 48) f(x) + x^2 - 9x + 24 = O(x^8)$$

so that

$$y(x) = \frac{8x^2 + 48 - x\sqrt{60x^2 + 900}}{2(x^2 + 9x + 24)} = f(x) + O(x^7) .$$

Figures 55 and 56 are graphs of  $\text{real}(y(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(y(z))$  while figures 57 and 58 are contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-3}, \pm 10^{-4}, \dots, \pm 10^{-8}\}$



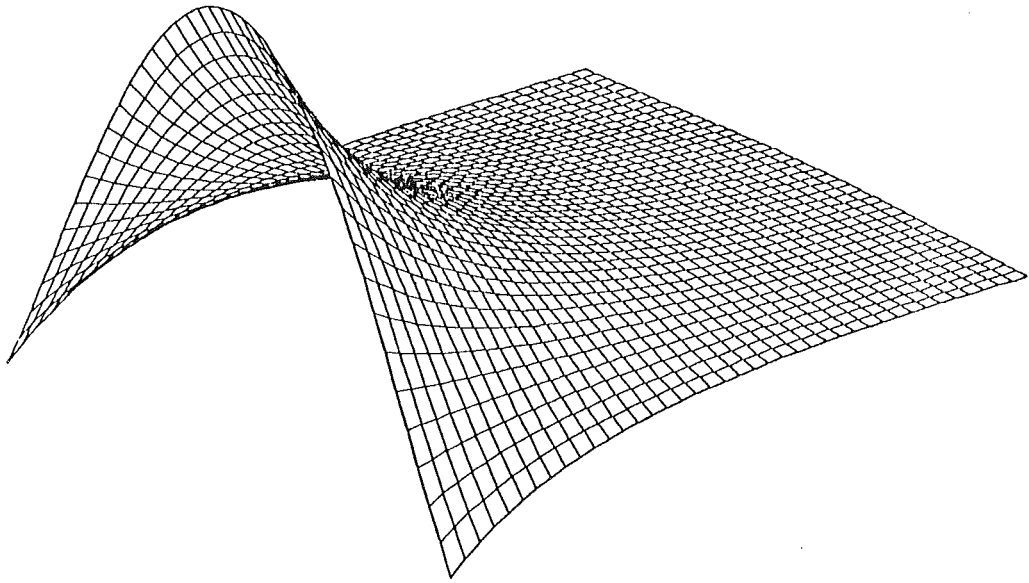


Figure 55  $\text{Real}(y(z))$ .

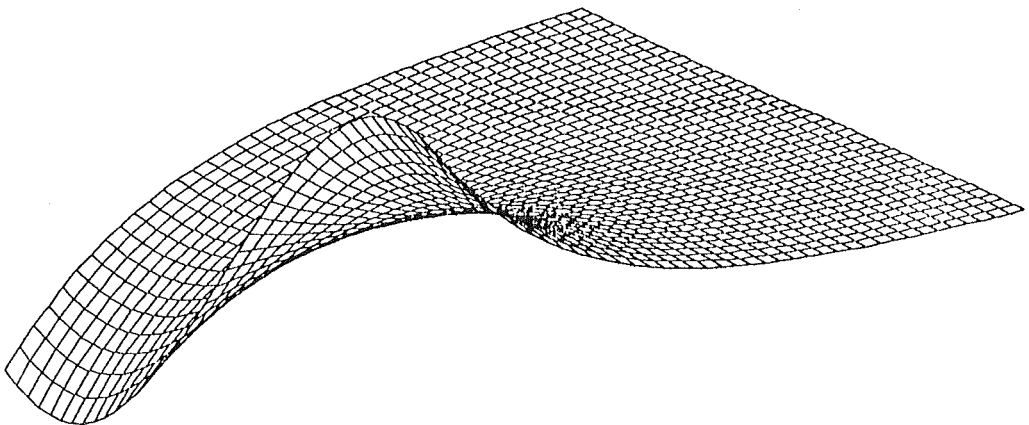


Figure 56  $\text{Imag}(y(z))$ .

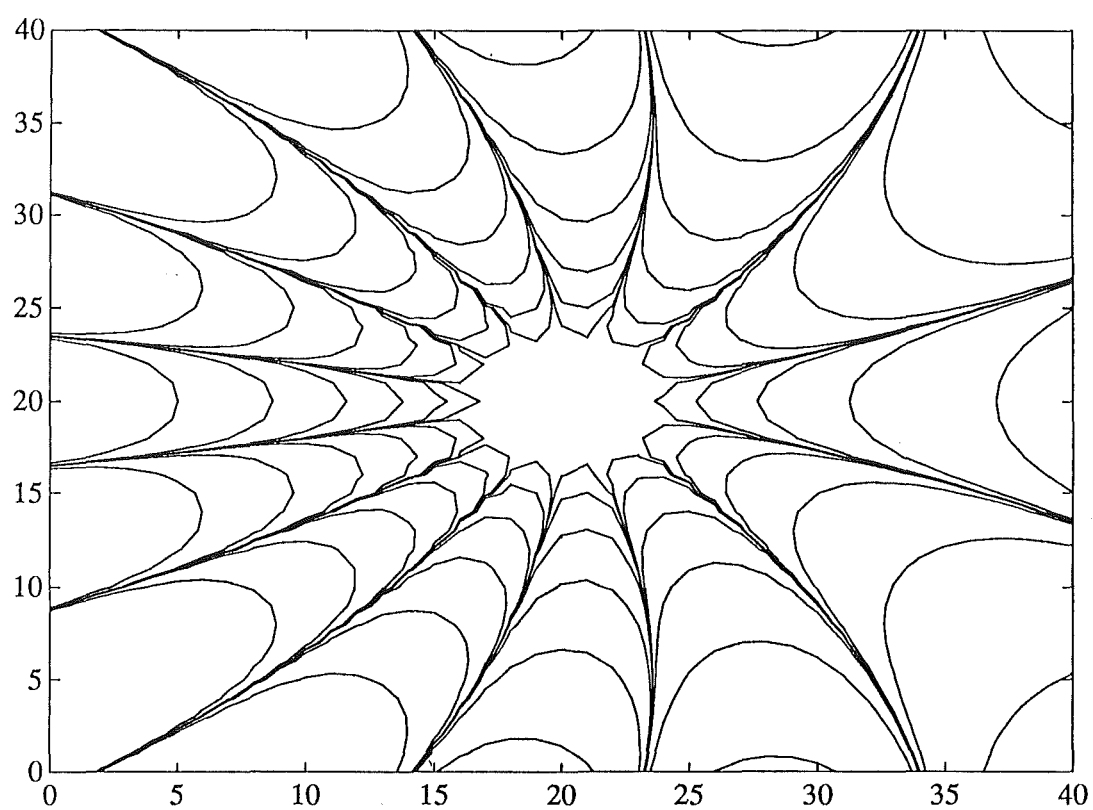


Figure 57 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

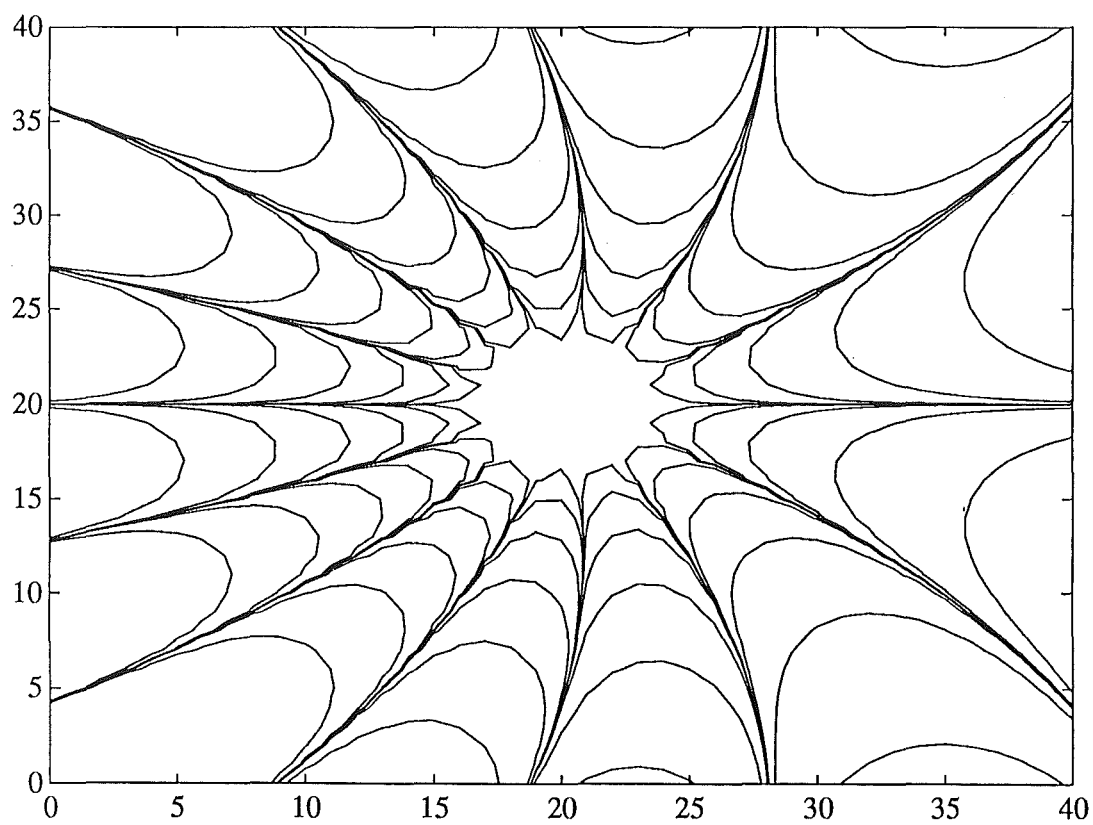


Figure 58 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

### 3.3.2 A comparison with the Taylor polynomial of degree 6 .

The Taylor polynomial approximation to  $e^{-x}$ , of degree 6 is

$$t(x) = 1 - x + \frac{x^2}{2!} - \dots + \frac{x^6}{6!} = f(x) + O(x^7) .$$

Figures 59 and 60 are the usual contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  . Certainly  $t(x)$  is inferior to  $y(x)$  but the difference is markedly less dramatic than with  $\log(1+x)$  . This is to be expected since  $e^{-x}$  is a smoother function, with a faster converging power series than  $\log(1+x)$  .

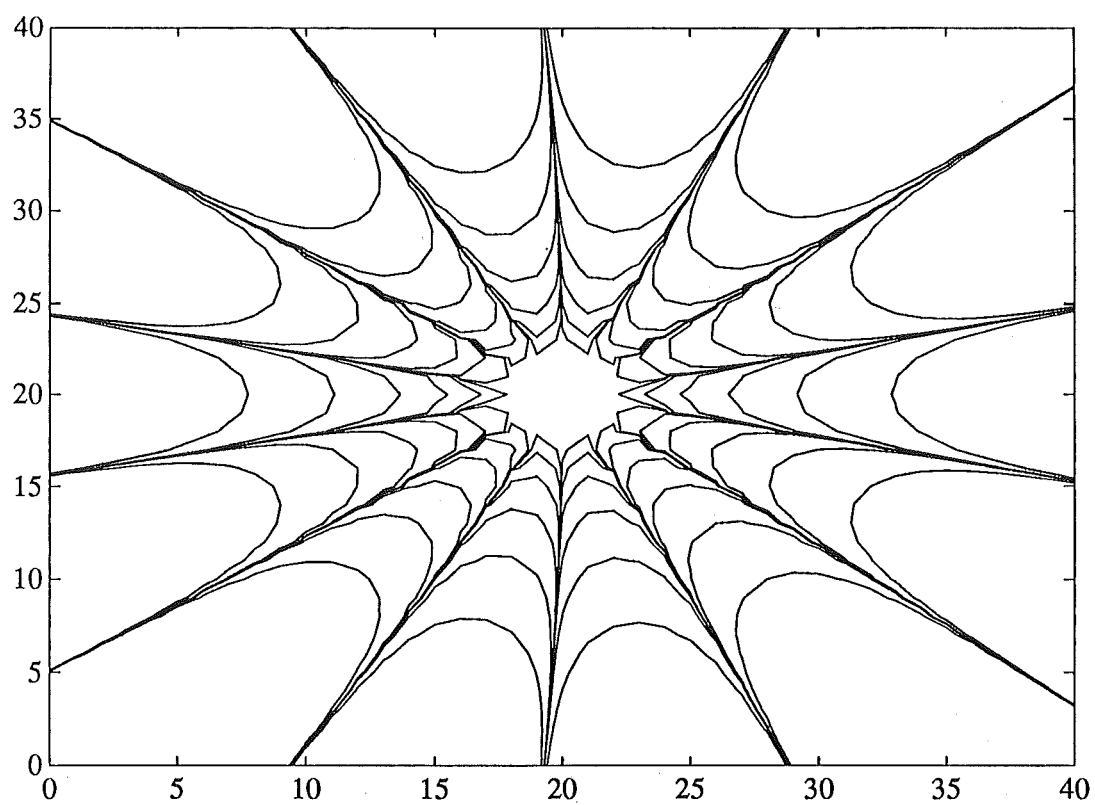


Figure 59 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

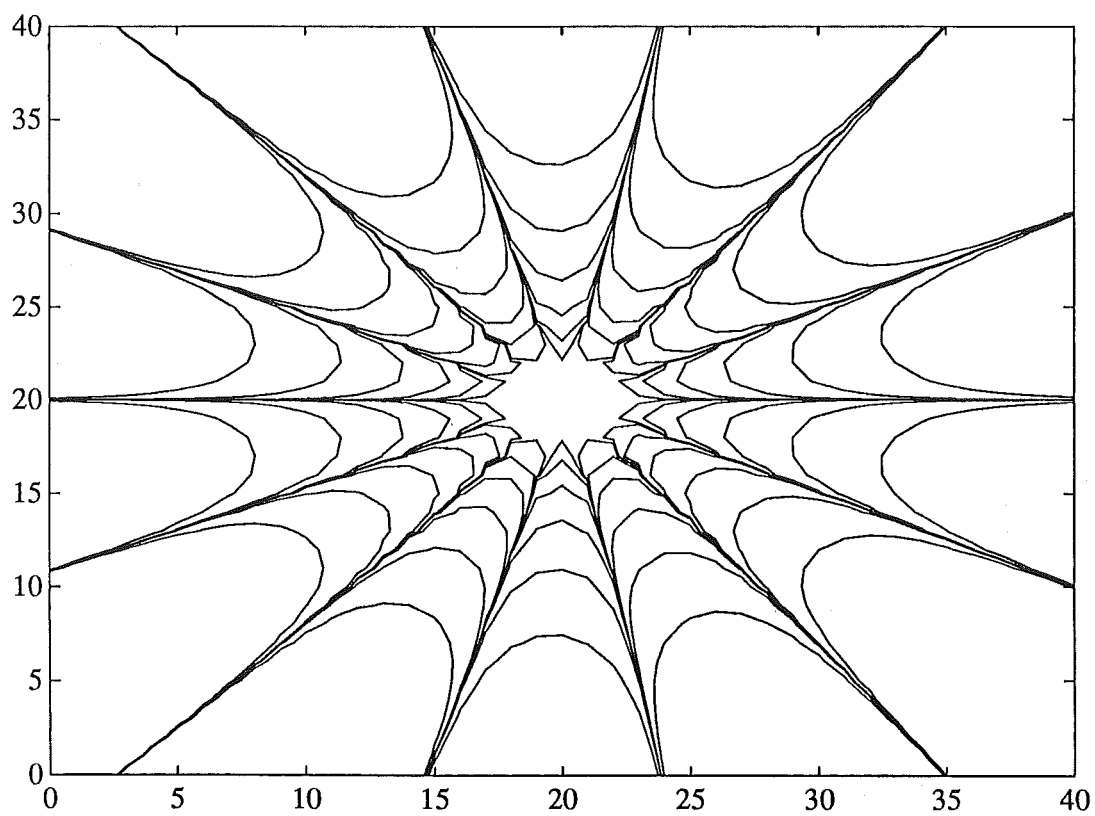


Figure 60 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

### 3.4 Example 4

#### 3.4.1 The (5,5,5) approximation to $e^{-x}$ .

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} & (x^5 + 45x^4 + 885x^3 + 9450x^2 + 54495x + 135135) f(x)^2 \\ & + (64x^5 + 7680x^3 + 161280x) f(x) \\ & + (x^5 - 45x^4 + 885x^3 - 9450x^2 + 54495x - 135135) = O(x^{17}) \end{aligned}$$

so that

$$y(x) = \frac{-64x^5 - 7680x^3 - 161280x + \sqrt{D(x)}}{2(x^5 + 45x^4 + 885x^3 + 9450x^2 + 54495x + 135135)} = f(x) + O(x^{17}) .$$

where

$$D(x) = 4092x^{10} + 984060x^8 + 79459380x^6 + 2497294800x^4 + 24348624300x^2 + 73045872900$$

Figures 61 and 62 are contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  this time with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-6}, \pm 10^{-7}, \dots, \pm 10^{-11}\}$  .

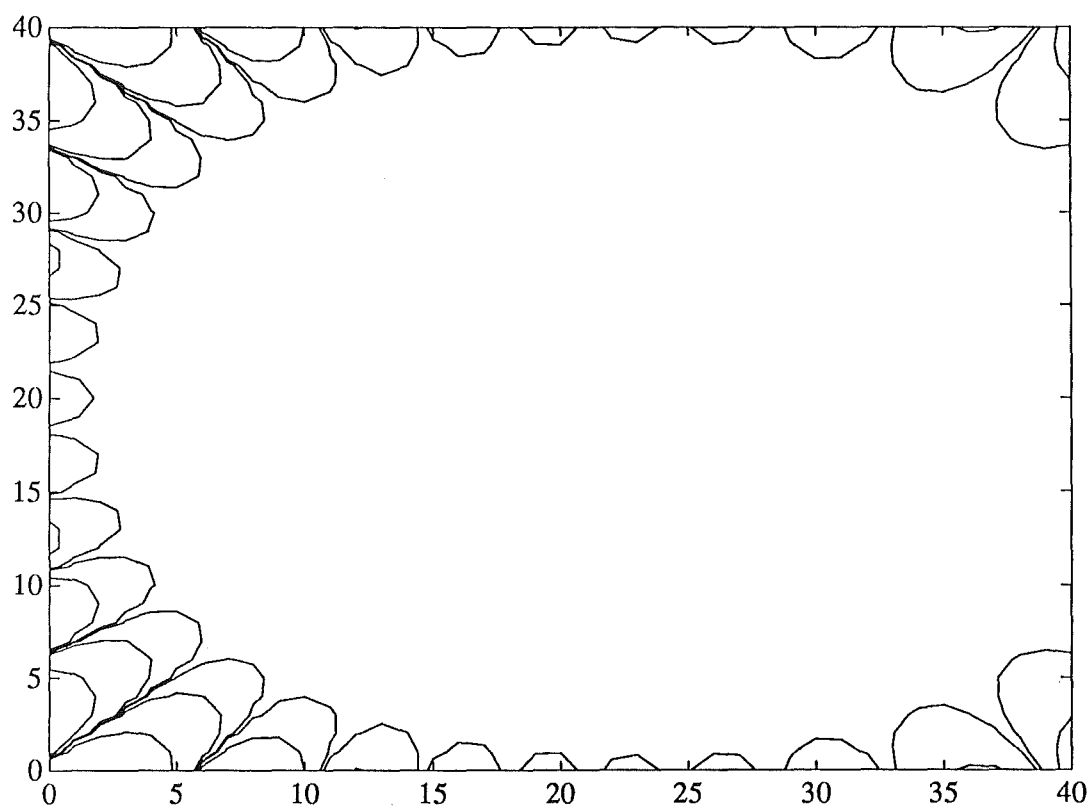


Figure 61 Contour map of  $\text{Real}(e(z))$ .

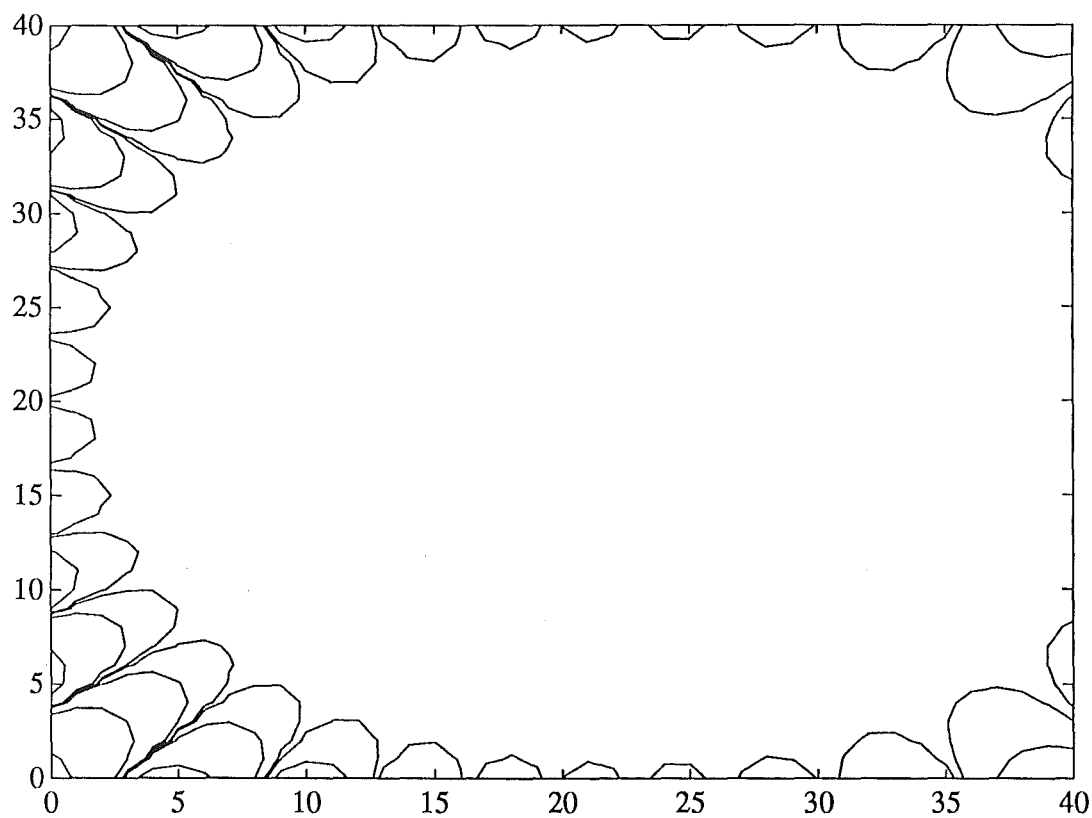
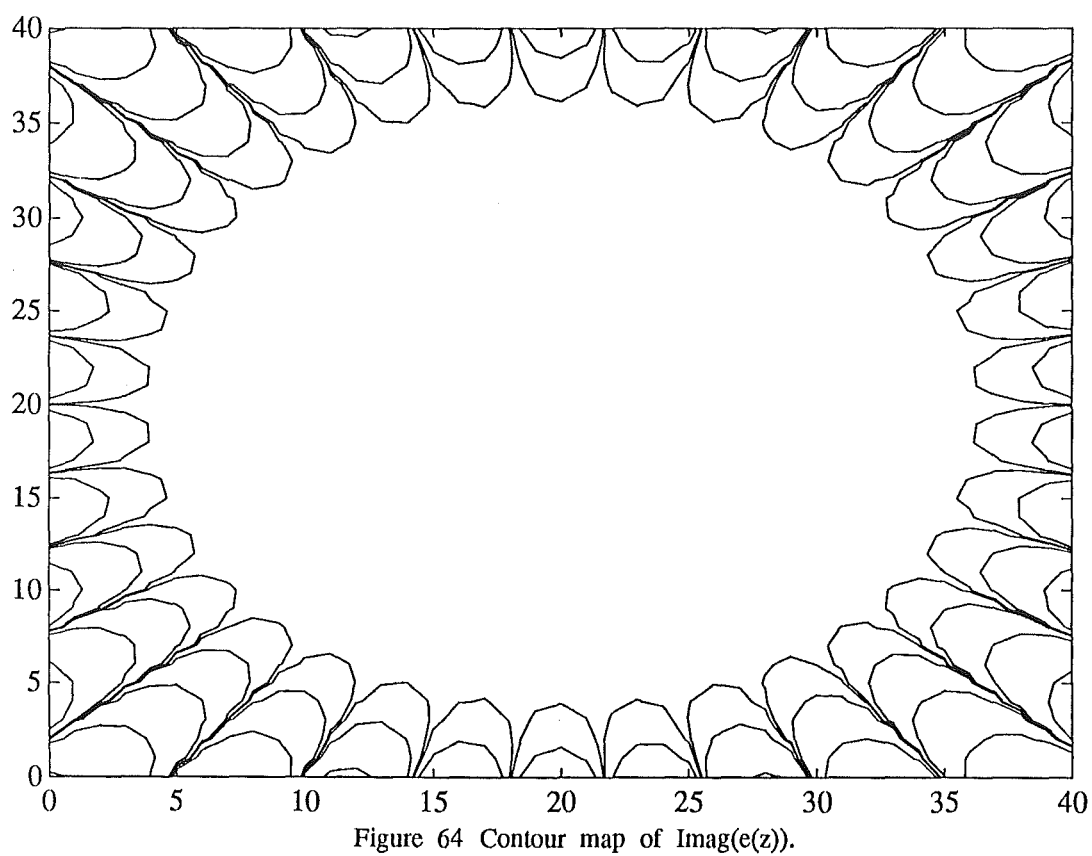
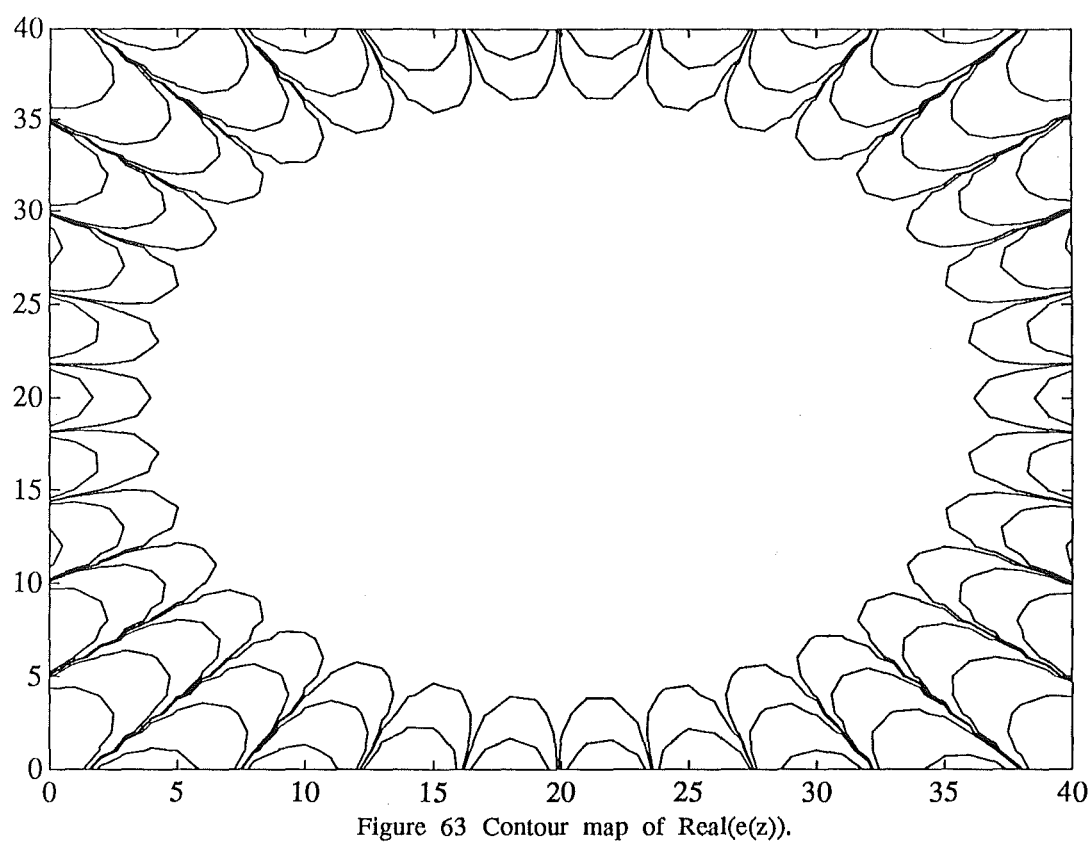


Figure 62 Contour map of  $\text{Imag}(e(z))$ .

### 3.4.2 A comparison with the Taylor polynomial of degree 16 .

Note that  $t(x) = f(x) + O(x^{17})$  .

Figures 63 and 64 are contour maps of  $\text{real}(e(z))$  and  $\text{imag}(e(z))$  with contours drawn at  $\{\pm 10^{-6}, \dots, \pm 10^{-11}\}$  .





## 4. Conclusion

This paper has attempted to assess some qualitative properties of the quadratic approximation by means of detailed investigation of some particular examples. Particular attention was paid to the size of the region over which this was a good approximation and to comparisons of the accuracy of the quadratic approximation with the more traditional Padé and Taylor approximations. An algorithm for obtaining a smooth, analytic approximation over the wider region was given.

It is clear from these examples that when using the quadratic approximation, care must be taken in defining the region of the approximation, and particularly in the placement of cuts from the branch points. However if this is done in a sensible manner, the approximations in these examples appear to be significantly better than the usual approximations, particularly for a function with some branch point structure. It is also of interest to note that the approximation is able to accurately represent this branch point structure. It is apparent from the contour maps of the error function, that the quadratic approximation to the log function is at least two significant figures better than the corresponding Padé approximation.

The function  $\exp(-x)$  was used as an example of a smooth function. The quadratic approximation to this function is also an improvement over the traditional approximations. However, the roughly one significant figure improvement in the error over the corresponding Taylor polynomial approximation does not appear to justify the additional computational cost for functions of this type. It is interesting to compare these results with the specific numerical results obtained by Borwein [1].

## References

1. P.B. Borwein (1986) : *Quadratic Hermite-Padé Approximation to the Exponential Function*. Constr. Approx., **2** : 291–302.
2. R.G. Brookes, A.W. McInnes (1988) : *The existence and local behaviour of the quadratic function approximation*. Math Research Report 45, University of Canterbury.
3. E. Hille (1962) : *Analytic Function Theory*, vol II. Boston : Ginn and Company.